

THIS ISSUE

Manchester
Co-ordination
Conference

SPASTICS NEWS

APRIL 1967 PRICE 6d THE MAGAZINE OF THE SPASTICS SOCIETY



IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

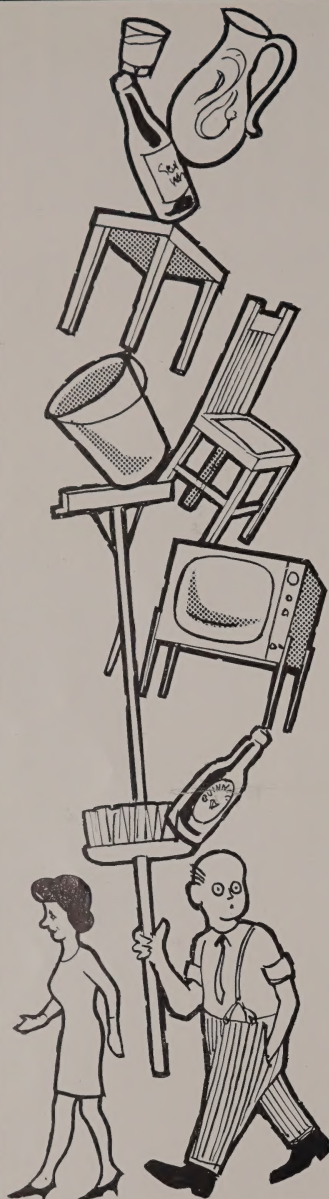
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SPASTICS NEWS

The magazine of The Spastics Society

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Front Cover Picture: Dr. Sylvia Guthrie and Mrs. Lil Stockdale, M.B.E., pictured during a session of the Conference on Co-ordinating Services to Spastics held at Manchester.

THE SPASTICS SOCIETY

12 Park Crescent, London, W.1 Tel. MUSEum 5020

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MANCHESTER CO-ORDINATION CONFERENCE



Being the report of a Study Group held at Manchester in February to discuss: 'Co-ordination of Services to Spastics on a Regional Basis'

Among those present were, left to right, Miss E. Slinger, Mr. D. Duncan, Mr. J. B. Arnold, Mr. R. Nabarro, Mrs. M. Thornton, Dr. N. Regan, Dr. A. Essex-Ceter (hidden), Mr. I. M. Thomas, Mr. T. Simpson, Mr. S. Pegram, Mr. A. M. Frank, Chief Regional Officer, Mr. B. Fox and Mr. D. Lancaster-Gaye, Assistant Director (Services)

FOR SOME TIME those concerned with the provision, in the broadest sense of services to spastics, have been concerned that there should be a comprehensive service in any one area. Manchester, with its many local groups and its diverse problems, seemed to be the ideal place to hold a study group to discuss the possibilities of co-ordinating services to spastics.

This study group was attended by some forty-five people covering a wide range of interests. All the Local Groups in this area, Manchester and District, Oldham, Preston, Sale and Altrincham, Stockport and Urmston, were represented

and they were joined by staff from their centres and their consultants. There was considerable representation from both the Education and Health departments of the Local Authorities directly concerned with this area although it was emphasised that they were present as individuals and not as official representatives of their respective departments. Senior members of the Park Crescent staff, including the Deputy Director, Mr. J. Loring, were also present.

The study group's opening session consisted of brief reports from a representative of each group in which they gave an account of the development of services in their particular area. These reports gave some idea of the diverse activities within our Local Groups and the amount of provision already being made, but they also put forward some of the problems still to be solved many of which were common to all Groups.

Saturday began with a paper by Dr. N. Gordon, consultant neurologist, in which he set out some of the problems of the severely sub-normal cerebral palsied. Although we are all aware of the inadequacies of the provision already made for these children it is important that all those interested in their welfare should strive to improve the services provided, but in the meantime a co-ordination of the services already available might go some way to alleviate the problem.

A symposium followed in which the speakers were Dr. Norah Regan, Administrative Medical Officer (School Health) City of Manchester Education Committee, Dr. R. Cargill, General School Medical

Officer, Cheshire, Mr. T. Simpson, Mental Health Officer, Manchester, Mr. B. Fox, Welfare Officer, Manchester; Dr. R. Stalker, Divisional Medical Officer, Cheshire, was in the chair. Each described various aspects of their particular Authorities' provision both for the cerebral palsied and other handicaps, for those of average intelligence, and E.S.N. ability. It was obvious that each Authority was unable at the moment, largely for financial reasons, to provide all the necessary facilities within their own region and that in these cases they relied upon the provision both of the neighbouring Authorities and those of voluntary Bodies.

An Amusing Paper

Mrs. L. Stockdale, chairman of the Sale and Altrincham Group and member of The Spastics Society's Executive Committee, gave a paper at once amusing, and highly informative on the links and relations between a local centre for Spastics and the Local Authorities. One was left with the very true impression that Mrs. Stockdale could 'draw blood from a stone' and woe betide the stone if it would not be drawn.

Mr. D. Lancaster-Gaye, The Spastics Society's Assistant Director (Services), discussed various problems and possible solutions connected with short-term care. He divided these facilities into three categories: Hostels, which are designed for the mentally rather than the physically sub-normal, Special Care Units, which are of two kinds, those providing overnight facilities, and those providing short-term care—the Family Help Units. He



Mr. T. Simpson and Dr. Norah Regan

—an historic occasion

suggested that, since there was substantial evidence to suggest that these services were greatly needed, co-operation between the Local Authorities and existing Group provision might enable further provision to be made.

Mr. M. Stopford, The Spastic Society's Acting Projects Secretary, looked at the problem of services as a whole to see how rational we have been in the past. He came to the conclusion that in the last few years, the Spastics Society seems to have developed in a haphazard way, but that it has really been very rational since groups of parents have met together in different places and when they have been determined to provide a particular service for a particular need it has been provided. If then we wish to appear more rational in our approach and it seems that we have already been fairly rational, it follows logically that we must use a different attacking weapon. This session was very ably chaired by Dr. S. Guthrie, a member of The Spastics Society's Executive Committee.

Three Discussion Groups

At this stage participants split into three groups, members of Group Committees, members of Management Committees, and staff of Centres. They all agreed that mistakes had been made in the past but that with more integration amongst themselves these could be avoided in the future. The member of the staff of Centres group decided that they would all meet three-monthly at each Centre in turn when they would discuss their prob-

lems, particularly those peculiar to the Centre in which they were meeting.

Mr. J. Loring, Deputy Director, then drew together the threads of the Study Group's papers and suggested that there should be a Standing Consultative Committee for services in the Manchester area.

This committee would receive from each individual Group information about spastics within their area requiring care that they themselves are unable to provide. It would then be possible for the Committee to propose plans to Groups for the development of new services in the Manchester area, at the same time taking into consideration the plans that other Bodies might be making. Members of the Study Group agreed with this suggestion wholeheartedly since all the discussions had constantly pointed to a greater need for co-ordination of services to spastics. It is hoped that with the setting up of this committee within the area that this may be achieved.

Everybody present agreed that the Study Group, especially its long discussion periods, had been of great benefit, and it is hoped that this may be the first of many such regional Study Groups to come.

The Manchester meeting might well prove to be an historic occasion since arrangements made there could well form the pattern of future relationships between Groups throughout the country, since it is becoming increasingly apparent that co-operation between Groups is very much easier when the subject of co-operation is Services to Spastics. **A.S.H.**

Handsome Trophy for Helping Hand Youth Club

MEMBERS OF THE HELPING HAND YOUTH CLUB are proud to have been selected as one of three Clubs to receive the Birmingham Association of Youth Clubs Chairmen's Award, 'for all round Club effort in terms of Club growth, range of activities, contribution to the lives and leisure of its members and for its contribution to the life of the community'.

The very handsome trophy, along with a voucher worth £25 for Club equipment, was presented by Sir Edward Boyle, Bart., M.P., to the Club Leader, Mr. P. Barrett, at a crowded meeting in the City Council Chamber on March 3rd.

A second honour in the form of a silver cup and £5 voucher was presented to the Assistant Club Leader and Editor of 'Helping Hand', Mr. J. Leonard, by Mr. C. H. Gearing, Birmingham Manager of Gestetner Ltd., at the same meeting. This was the major award in a national competition organised by the National Association of Youth Clubs/Gestetner/Star for the Club 'Magazine of the Year', a competition attracting hundreds of entries.

Recently, a party of members had a weekend in London, staying at Devonshire Street House, headquarters of N.A.Y.C., seeing the sights, attending a theatre and included a sultry late Saturday evening in a Soho coffee bar! A similar group hope to join in an exchange holiday in Austria later in the year.

Birmingham 'Spastics Week' starts on April 29th, and H.H.Y.C. is hoping to give the event a good start by organising a 'Sponsored Walk' from Bewdley Town Hall to Midland Spastic Association Welfare Centre, Harborne—approximately 20 miles. Many members are hoping to do a 'leg' of the relay of three miles each.

Peter Barrett, Club Leader.

A POST ABROAD

MISS KATHLEEN MCINNERY writes to say that she would like to go abroad with a Voluntary Organisation or perhaps with an ordinary family with a spastic child. Miss McInnery is 20 years old and was employed from the time she left school in April, 1962, until December, 1966, at Bethesda School for Handicapped Children at Cheadle in Cheshire. She started as a junior and progressed to full house mother by the time she left.

If any of our readers know of a likely opening for Miss McInnery, would they kindly write to her at 9 Woodbury Close, Hartlebury, Nr. Kidderminster, Worcs.



Dr. R. Stalker, Dr. R. Cargill, and Mr. B. Fox



(Courtesy: Essex County Standard)

MEET THE WARDEN AND MATRON!: At a reception at Prested Hall in March, a distinguished company gathered to welcome the new warden and matron, Mr. & Mrs. R. D. Smith, seen above with Miss M. Ruck, chairman of the Management Committee and, right, Mrs. J. Toone, Administrative Assistant

The Consultant's Diagnosis

FOLLOWING THE ARTICLE, 'Was Dr. Johnson a Spastic?' in last month's SPASTICS NEWS, Dr. Ronald MacKeith, F.R.C.P., Paediatric Physician to Guy's Hospital, has sent us his own essay on Johnson, which was published in 'The New Rambler', the Journal of the Johnson Society.

In this he reviews the whole of Johnson's medical history—his poor eyesight, psychological traits, melancholy and deafness, besides his 'infirmity of the convulsive kind'. Dr. MacKeith says that the word 'convulsive' has led many people to believe that Johnson was an epileptic, but shows that 'convulsions' in the 18th Century meant merely 'involuntary movements'.

Dr. MacKeith gives careful consideration to the possibility that these movements could have been those of an athetoid, but thinks himself that Johnson was a person with elaborate obsessional traits and tics. However, in a recent note to the author of our article, he points out that Johnson may, in fact, have been both athetoid and a tiqueur.

Sherrards' News

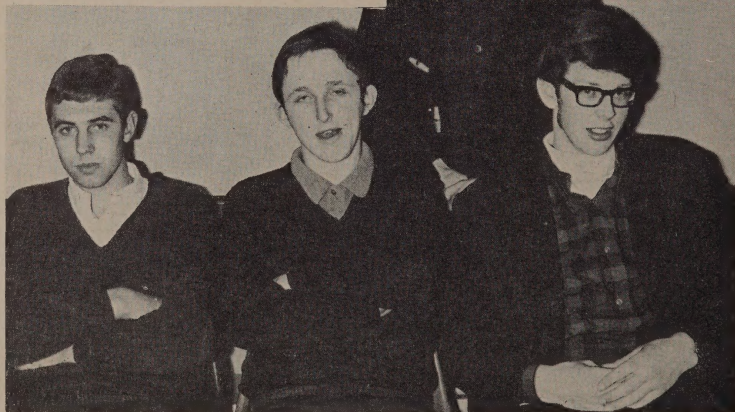
SHERRARDS' QUARTERLY NEWS continues to provide a useful information service for present and past trainees and those who are still on the waiting list. The March, 1967, issue gives details of a 'Sherrards' Ex-Trainees Address List', which has been prepared to enable readers to keep in touch with their friends. The list is available from the Centre, price 6d., plus postage.

A book has also been produced of the 'Top Ten' drawings which have appeared

in 'Sherrards' News' over the past three years. The drawings are bound together loosely so that they can be easily removed for framing.

Getting Young People Interested

IPSWICH AND EAST SUFFOLK GROUP wants to form a Young Spastics Society with members aged about 18 to 26, not necessarily spastics themselves, who will form their own committee and run various fund-raising activities. The group needs to collect a million Green Shield stamps in order to get an ambulance and it is felt the young people could do this very well.



(Courtesy: Midhurst and Petworth Observer)

ANDREW IN THE WINNING TEAM: Andrew Benson (standing) with the Midhurst Youth Club who won the County Quiz Competition recently, (L. to R.) Trevor Hallett, David Candy and David Benny. Andrew was at Delarue (5 'O' levels) and with great perseverance has now got a good job with a book firm in Chichester

news and view

Competition for Merseyside and N. Wales Spastics

THE RECENTLY-FORMED Merseyside and North Wales Region has recently produced its first News Sheet, with an attractive cover showing a map of the area. It announces a forthcoming competition, open to spastics of all ages, which will provide opportunities for them to show their skill in handicrafts, painting or essay writing.

Home Helps

THE WEST BROMWICH GROUP is hoping to provide domestic help for mothers of spastic children during periods of family crisis. At first, the scheme would have to depend on the local authorities 'Home-help' service, but if suitable people could be found, the Group might eventually be able to employ their own-helps, who could go out daily to families in need of assistance. Mrs. J. Carroll is the Group's Hon. Secretary.

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Has Your Group Been in the News Lately?

RESEARCH INTO THE NUMBER of Local Groups and Societies mentioned in SPASTICS NEWS during 1966 shows that Norfolk and Norwich head the table with six news items. Brighton and Watford each appeared four times during the year, 20 other groups were named twice or more, while nearly 100 were not mentioned at all.

If your group has been hiding its light under a bushel for the past year, please write and tell us something about your activities this year. Remember that we cannot know what is going on in your area unless you keep us informed.

There are roughly 10-12 groups in each Region, and on this basis an average of four groups per Region have figured in news or photographic items in the magazine during the year.

The Regional Officers, of course, produce some nicely got-up News Bulletins which usually appear quarterly and are very useful for forward dates but, because of the time lag, few past events can be extracted for publication. Occasionally a photograph is unavoidably held over, but on the whole we try and make the news in 'the NEWS' as up-to-date as possible!

For this reason we give our printers quite a few headaches in meeting our publication date of the first of the month—which has not been missed so far, although, owing to postal delays we understand a number of subscribers have received their copies late. We apologise for this, but there is not very much we can do about it. Complaints to British Railways rarely achieve very much—it could be that the 'sleepers' in that mighty organisation are not only to be found on the permanent way.

By the way, would Branch Secretaries please type their reports to the Editor double-spaced on quarto paper—leaving plenty of room at the TOP of the page for typographical instructions.

Judgment has to be exercised obviously in selecting what news is truly newsworthy, too. On the whole, coffee mornings that raise £2 or £3 will not rate news-wise, but a spastic getting a job, a Duke of Edinburgh award or having his wireless set stolen, will.



(Courtesy: Western Evening Herald)

PLYMOUTH CENTRE OPEN DAY: The Lady Mayoress, Mrs. T. H. L. Stanbury, admired a Russian Doll which was sold at Cliveden House at a bring and buy coffee party. She was welcomed by Dame Jocelyn Woolcombe, chairman of the House Committee

Warning to Farmers

"FARMING TODAY would have been considered rank bad farming twenty years ago." With these words, the Chief Agricultural Adviser to the Minister of Agriculture, Mr. W. Emrys Jones, with all the weight of his experience and authority, sounded a grave warning to the country at a luncheon given by the Guild of Agricultural Journalists.

The Society now has a training farm at Thorngrove in Dorset, which the Minister of Agriculture considers a worthwhile project, so it behoves us to ponder the views of the Chief Adviser.

Mr. Emrys Hughes detects a feeling of 'unease' generally in the industry. Many fears will have been allayed by the recent Farm Price Review Settlement for 1967—the first for many years that had not asked the farmer to bridge the yawning gap between costs and profitability by further efficiency and economy, but three questions remain.

First, crop yields are not increasing. Secondly, many essential acts of good husbandry—such as hedging and ditching

—are being neglected, and thirdly, enormous quantities of chemical fertiliser are being used (up to £12m.-worth per annum). Mr. Hughes wondered particularly what residues—if any—were being built up in the soil from this high rate of application.

He should know that nitrogenous fertilisers, the most used, leach away very quickly, and on the whole only benefit the crop—including grass—in the year of application, but the phosphates and potash last rather longer.

Surely, if the dust-bowls of America proved anything, it was that continuous straw-cropping is fatal to soil structure. As Sir Albert Howard proved, it is the organic condition of the soil that matters.

Forthcoming Regional Conferences

East Midland: Sunday, April 2. Mansfield.

South-East: Sunday, April 9. Worthing.

Wessex: Saturday, April 29. Basingstoke.

West: Saturday, May 6. Exeter.

West Midland: Sat., June 3. Edgbaston.

work for 60 at new southampton centre

THE 1000th WORK CENTRE PLACE provided by a local group—this was the milestone reached when the new centre of the Southampton and District Spastics Association was officially opened on Saturday, March 4th.

The opening ceremony was performed by the Rt. Hon. Dr. Horace King, Speaker of the House of Commons. Dr. King has been a good friend of spastics in Southampton for many years and at the ceremony accepted the Presidency of the Association. 'A dream come true', was how he described the impressive new work centre.

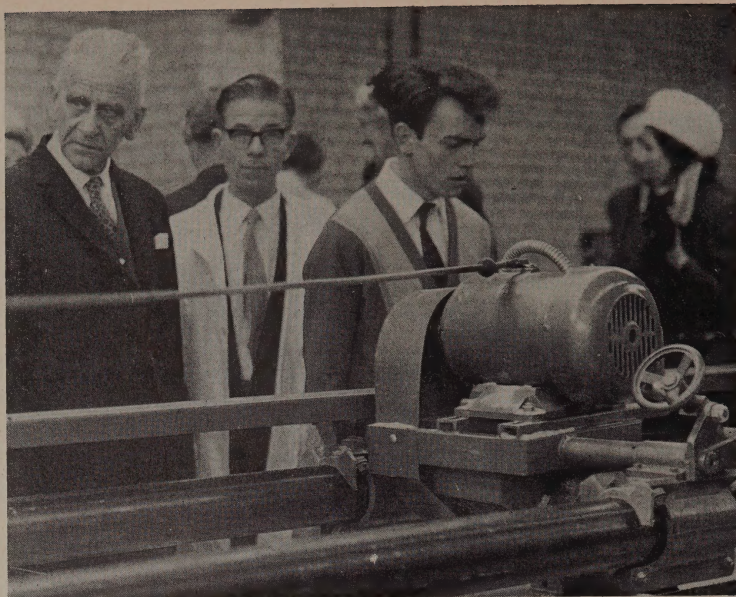
Dr. King and other guests were welcomed to the centre by Mr. W. E. Englefield, Chairman of the Association, who recounted the history of the local group and paid tribute to the many parents and friends who had made the new centre possible.

Mr. Englefield introduced Mr. Derek Lancaster-Gaye, the Society's Assistant Director (Services), who spoke of the close co-operation between the Society and the Southampton Association. 'This is the 24th work centre opened by a local group and another 21 are planned in the coming five or six years—a source of considerable pride to the country-wide network of groups dedicated to helping spastics'.

Mr. Lancaster-Gaye joined with the other speakers in paying particular tribute to Mrs. L. Welch, the centre's Principal whose energy and dedication had brought the group's plan for a comprehensive work centre to full fruition.

The Mayor of Southampton, Alderman S. M. G. Mitchell, congratulated the group on their achievement on behalf of the City. A vote of thanks was proposed by Mr. W. Brown, Chairman of the Management Committee, and prayers for the centre were said by Canon Roy Chamberlain and the Rev. Tim Maguire.

Dr. King found time to chat to everybody at the centre and raised a considerable laugh when he referred to the key to the centre which had been presented to him by Mrs. Welch. He quipped: 'It will enable me to come along as often as I like and learn to do a useful job instead of just being a Member of Parliament'.



(Courtesy: Southampton Newspapers Ltd.)

Dr. Horace King (left) inspects the workshop at Southampton Centre after the official opening

—and how it all began

AS DR. KING at the opening unveiled a commemorative plaque, the minds of the Southampton Group went back to 1960. It was then that plans for a Work Centre were first begun, and a sub-committee of local industrial men was formed to help with the project.

It started modestly. Mr. W. Englefield, Chairman of the Group, offered the use of a hut in his garden at Sholing and machinery was assembled from do-it-yourself kits.

The first boys to attend the Centre made tea trolleys and bathroom stools, but the results were not perfect. These were articles that required careful finishing and polishing, and the boys found it difficult. However, they had proved that they COULD work if the jobs were suitable.

Encouraged, the Group organisers wrote to several firms and obtained some interesting sub-contracts. These included the making of toy ironing boards and blackboard easels and the manufacture of plywood seat and back bases for office chairs—work which is still being carried out today.

Meanwhile spastic girls were being taught printing and crafts at the Group's Day Centre in Archers Road. Then, in 1963, Mr. and Mrs. L. Welch offered a ground-floor flat in their house as a

temporary work centre for 14 spastic girls aged over 16. Mr. Welch, the Group Secretary, and Mrs. Welch, the Group's Principal of Training and Welfare, thought the girls would be there for a few months. In fact they stayed for more than four years and became skilled in the making of aprons, pillow cases and other hand-made goods.

Both the boys' and girls' work centres had proved a resounding success. The sale of articles made by the girls grew steadily, while some of the boys were able to take outside employment.

But there was a growing need for more suitable accommodation than a nissen hut and a private flat. Finally it was agreed that a modern centre should be built to the Group's own specifications by Queens College, Oxford, and that the Group should have the building on lease at a rent of nearly £4,000 a year.

It is a big financial challenge, but in courageously accepting it the Group has enabled Southampton to have the second largest Centre of its kind in the country. The new building will accommodate at least 60 spastic workers, and it has a fine woodwork shop, four large workrooms, conference and dining rooms and a large kitchen. There are also bathing facilities, intended for heavily-handicapped spastics whose parents are elderly or ill. However,

the Group will have to raise money for a special hoist before the bathroom can be used for this purpose.

At present there are 39 spastics attending the new Centre. There will be 15 more in April when The Spastics Society opens Merlin House, its new hostel in Southampton.

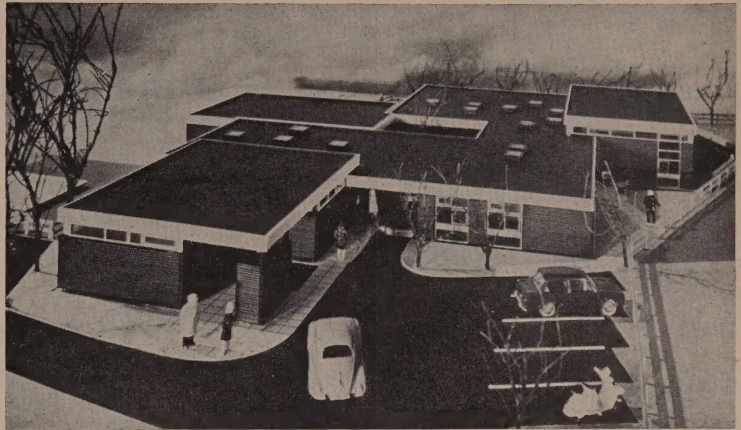
A special feature of the Work Centre is its Endeavour/Reception Section, set up for chairbound spastics who are too heavily handicapped ever to contemplate outside employment. Led by a skilled occupational therapist, they are now able to produce an attractive range, including baskets, trays and mats.

Southampton is now one of Britain's most active areas of work for spastics. In addition to the new Work Centre and Hostel work is progressing well on a new Day Centre that will be the first one in the South-west to offer overnight facilities as well.

The new Day Centre, which should be completed by the end of the year, adjoins Mr. and Mrs. Welch's former house in Rose Road. Just before Christmas the Group persuaded the Welch's to sell the house to them so they could use it as a registered office and incorporate its garden into the grounds of the new Centre.

June Sampson.

Model of New Exeter Centre



(Designed by Acland Barron and Smith)

Treatment for 100 Children

THE EXETER AND TORBAY DISTRICTS Spastics Society began with assets of exactly 10s. 8d. Now, five busy years later, it has clinic treatment facilities at both Exeter and Torbay and is about to

begin work on a new £56,000 day centre in the grounds of Exeter's Honeylands Children's Hospital.

These achievements are the result of tireless work by the members, led by Mr. Charles Vranck and his wife Kay.

The Vranck's—he is Chairman of the Group, she is the Secretary—have been largely responsible for forming a remarkably close relationship between their Society and the local authority, the hospital and medical services and the general practitioners of the area.

As a result the new Centre will be able to share many of the hospital's facilities, and it will stand on a site leased at only a nominal rent from the Regional Hospital Board.

'All local Groups should aim at this sort of co-ordination' declares Mr. Vranck. 'It enables a comparatively small voluntary organisation to plan on a scale that would otherwise be impossible. In our own case, I'm sure that without it we would have needed at least ten years before we could start building our new Centre instead of only five'.

A scale model of the new building, designed by the Exeter firm of Acland Barron and Smith, was displayed at a special reception organised by the Group at the Royal Clarence Hotel, Exeter.

The reception brought a big surprise for Mr. and Mrs. Vranck when the Group revealed that it had been decided to name the Centre, *Vranck House*, and produced a display board to prove it.

The Centre will be built by the swift new 'method' system which reduces building time by about a third. It will be divided into three main areas. The treatment area will contain physiotherapy

Continued overleaf

New Day Centre for Bath—soon

PLANS FOR A NEW DAY treatment centre for spastic children in the grounds of Manor Hospital, Bath, were discussed at a recent public meeting called by the Bath and District Spastics Society. The centre is expected to take about four months to build and it is hoped that work will begin in two weeks' time. The cost of building and equipment—£14,000 to £15,000—will be shared by the national and local societies. Running costs will be about £7,500 a year. For the first two years these will be shared by the two societies and the Hospital Board. The latter will then take over the whole of the running costs in the financial year 1969/70.

The Bath Society has 85 children on its list from Somerset and West Wiltshire; the first children at the centre will be the youngest who will benefit most.

The centre will bring all forms of treatment together under one roof. It will be a single-storey timber building with a physiotherapy room, plaster room, occupational therapy room, two large day rooms, kitchen and toilets. There will be an examination room and a place where doctors and parents can sit down to talk. Having the centre next to the hospital's paediatric department will help in this respect. When not needed for treatment the centre will have a dual function as a

social centre for adult spastics. Speech therapy and teaching facilities were also being considered.

The Bath meeting was attended by over 80 people. Speakers included Mr. Derek Lancaster-Gaye, Assistant Director (Services), who, after describing the building, said that even in a welfare state, there was more to be done than money with which to do it. Dr. John Apley, Consultant Paediatrician for the Bath group of hospitals, said that between 40 and 50 spastic children were now receiving physiotherapy in cramped conditions in the Royal United Hospital. This number was expected to grow and they would receive treatment in better surroundings at the centre. Children would have time to relax with occupational therapy before having physiotherapy. At present they often went straight to physiotherapy after a long ambulance journey.

The speakers were thanked by Mr. Martin Price, Hon. Secretary of Bath and District Spastics Society, who said that great fund-raising efforts would be needed. At the end of the meeting, Mr. Price received a cheque for £70 from Mrs. T. Salisbury, Westbury sub-committee member—the proceeds from a sherry party and a coffee morning.

R.R.

S.O.S. RECORD STAR SHOW

APRIL 16th

TICKETS ARE SELLING rapidly for the annual S.O.S. Record Star Show which takes place at the Empire Pool, Wembley, on Sunday, 16th April, at 2 p.m. and 6.30 p.m. More artists have now promised to give their services and the cast now includes:—

Julie Felix

Cliff Bennett and The Rebel Rousers
The Cream

Dave Berry & The Cruisers

Dave Dee, Dozey, Beaky, Mick and
Titch

David & Jonathan

Chris Farlowe & The Thunderbirds

Freddie and The Dreamers

Paul Jones

The Kinks

Lulu

The Move

Alan Price Set

The Tremeloes

The Troggs

Geno Washington & The Ram Jam Band
The New Vaudeville Band

The artists will be introduced by:

David Jacobs Simon Dee

Don Moss Alan Freeman

Peter Murray

Tickets are available from the Empire
Pool Box Office, Wembley, price 5s.,
7s. 6d., 10s., 12s. 6d., 15s. and 1 guinea.

Exeter Centre (Cont'd)

plaster, speech therapy and consultants' rooms, together with showers and changing rooms. The day living area will have a dining room, three day rooms and a 'special activities' room. And both these sections will be linked by a central area containing entrance hall, staff offices and a laundry.

Initially, the Centre will provide facilities for over 100 children, and treatment will include physiotherapy, speech therapy, hydrotherapy and riding therapy. Eventually it is planned to extend the Centre to provide sheltered workshops and occupational therapy for older spastics. The final stage will be the provision of living accommodation for adult spastics whose parents are no longer able to look after them.

It will cost £56,000 to build and equip the Centre, but though the national Spastics Society has made a grant of £40,000, and the local Society has raised several thousand pounds, a further £11,000 must still be found.

An urgent public appeal will therefore have to be made. If it is successful the Centre should be completed by May of next year.

June Sampson.

The Charms of Music

by MONICA YOUNG

WHAT DO YOU DO when the day's work is over or the household chores are completed? If you happen to strum a guitar, tinkle on the piano or warble a few songs, you may be interested to hear about our music panel—and we should most certainly like to know about you!

Up to now—and rightly so—almost all attention has been focussed on the training of the disabled for suitable employment, whether in office, factory, sheltered workshop or at home. But the Disabled Living Activities Group of the Central Council for the Disabled is concerned with all aspects of day to day living and this includes the way in which we use our leisure hours, as well as the design of the homes in which we live and access to public buildings.

There has been an Archery Project and now representatives from all fields of music have been brought together to form a Music Panel, under the Chairmanship of Lady Hamilton. Because I am disabled myself I was asked to join this Panel to try to represent the views of all handicapped people. Our aim is—and I quote—'To make some contribution to music for the handicapped, taking all ages; music of all kinds appropriate to their ages; and both performing and non-performing'.

Survey in Three Areas

Mr. Irwyn R. Walters, founder of the National Youth Orchestra of Wales, has been appointed Music Project Officer and, with the support of many voluntary bodies such as The Spastics Society, he is at present conducting a survey to try and find out what part music plays in the lives of the physically handicapped. Only when it is known what opportunities already exist for music making and listening, can plans be made for the future.

Mr. Walters' survey is at present centred on three main areas—Aberdare and Mountain Ash in Wales, Harlow and District in Essex and the Toxteth Division of Liverpool. Since no-one knows the full numbers of disabled folk, one of his greatest difficulties is contacting handicapped music lovers in these districts, but it is hoped that, with the kind co-opera-

tion of organisations such as your own and the willing help of social workers and students, he will eventually meet nearly all of them. If you reside in one of these areas and have by some mischance been overlooked, please pick up your pen and write to me.

But in whatever part of the country you live—whether you are in the over sixty age group and able to look back upon a wealth of musical experience, or a teenager at school just beginning to learn an instrument—we should like to hear from you.

Is Your Enjoyment Limited?

Is your enjoyment of music limited to radio or television because there are no facilities for wheelchairs at your nearest concert hall? Do you play an instrument? If not, is it merely fear of a neighbour's reaction to your practising which prevents you, or the difficulty of finding a visiting teacher and the means to pay him or her? It may even be that you have not found an instrument suited to your particular handicap. The range of adaptations tailored to individual needs is wide and the Music Panel is anxious to catalogue all available information so that it is readily available to those seeking an instrument suited to their physical limitations.

Do you take part in any form of group music making or listening? So often the ability to drive is the key to all social contact outside one's own family, it is only the owner of a car or tricycle who can join a music society meeting on the ground floor. For those without transport, participation of any sort seems almost impossible unless a choir or orchestra especially for handicapped people operates in the neighbourhood.

Don't forget, members of the Panel would like to know about your interest in music. A letter from you will help us to build up a picture of activities throughout the whole of the country and perhaps, as a result of it, we may one day be of use to you.

Please write to: Miss Monica Young, 91 Lakeside Road, London, N.13.

THREE YEARS AGO we were told we had a spastic and 'they don't come much worse I'm afraid; doubtful if he will live very long'. He has been 'given up' twice and will be four years old in July.

We had the choice of caring for Edward at home or having him admitted to hospital when he was five years old. If we managed him successfully until he was five, we decided that we would always be able to manage him with adequate relief.

My husband and I re-arranged our house but decided Edward wasn't going to dominate our lives. We would have other children as we had planned.

My husband found a job—he's a motor mechanic—with an understanding boss. We wrote to The Spastics Society for help and advice which we got in plenty! Our house was designed to give a bedroom downstairs as well as a bathroom and toilet. The kitchen is big enough to live in and has a Rayburn stove. I have a few 'helps'—vacuum cleaner, 'fridge and spin dryer. The house has to be kept fairly warm, as Edward loses body heat rapidly and doesn't regain it very quickly.

The extra equipment that we have for Edward so far is:

1. Hospital bed—on loan from local authority.
2. Baby Relax chair.

'abnormal lives?'

— a Mother replies —

Mrs. E. A. Stoakes

3. Extra long pram—National Health Service and made to our design for easy loading into our van.
4. Tub chair for me when I give Edward a drink—used to take half-an-hour, now about ten minutes.
5. Tomee Tippee cup.
6. Extra long draining board (4ft. 6in.) for bathing Edward and dressing him.
7. Infra Red heater for his bedroom.

We also have a very lively adopted toddler, now aged 19 months. (My second pregnancy was even more disastrous than the first.)

I organise the housework so that each room (5) plus bathroom and toilet are cleaned thoroughly once a week. Washing is done three times a week.

My husband insists that no work is done on Sundays, except for cooking the dinner—I don't make beds or sweep up. Hands up in horror I can see, but this way, we get most of a day to be a family—and do a bit of 'courting', we've been married seven years now.

I have groceries, meat, bread, etc., delivered—slightly more expensive perhaps, than personal shopping for bargains, but the time is an important factor. We go to town on market day—Wednesday, my husband works on Saturday instead.

To Hospital for Physiotherapy

Edward goes to local hospital for physiotherapy and then both boys go to a nursery club run by Red Cross; I pay 7s. 6d. for them both, and this includes dinner. My husband and I are then free to go round the stock-market, and Cheap Jacks or the art gallery, or just poke in the shops. We live in the country, both of farming backgrounds.

Our near relatives live within 20 miles of us, so are available for baby-sitting when we go out about once in six-eight weeks. We also have a very good neighbour who will sit for an hour or so, while we go to the local for a drink. I have holiday relief for Edward—he goes into the local hospital twice a year which is adequate at the moment.

An Acre of Garden, too

As well as looking after the two boys, we keep an acre of garden fairly tidy. I sit on a Church Council, help organise parish whist drives, sit on local Spastic Group Executive Committee and act as Christmas Card Secretary. We think this is fairly normal family life—by no means abnormal.

I had a head start of most spastic's mums, as I'm a trained nurse (teaching hospital).

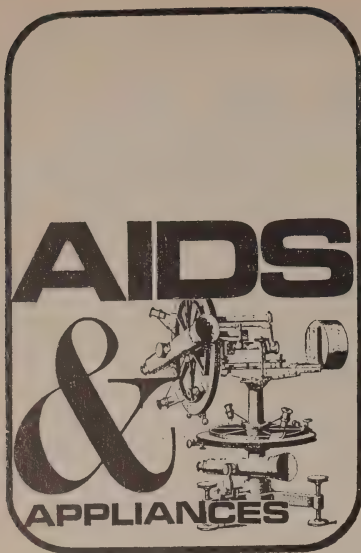
We feel that as the cost of hospitalisation for children like Edward is so high and beds so short, that this type of care should be encouraged—it only needs a large dose of common sense from the parents, a sympathetic hospital consultant, good moral support from The Spastics Society and help with equipment from local authority.

We also firmly believe that God never sends any more trouble than you can cope with, and He always helps.



(Courtesy: Southport Visitor)

MAYOR'S VISIT TO ELLERSLIE COURT: When Ald. Mrs. B. Pogson, the Mayor of Birkdale, paid a visit in her chain of office to Ellerslie Holiday Home, she was presented with a bouquet by one of the guests, Miss Janet Paget (seated). Others in the picture are (L. to R.): Mr. R. Hinds, chairman of Southport, Formby and District Society, Dr. R. A. Yorke and Miss H. Styles, the Superintendent



**Compiled
by**

N. D. B. Elwes

a light collapsible wheelchair

The Newton wheelchair is probably the lightest wheelchair in production, weighing only 28 lbs. The back wheels remove along with the armrest and footrests, leaving the

chassis weighing only 14 lbs. Further advantages are: nylon bearings to the wheels, push-button fastening for the armrests, heel ledge on footrest, inflatable tyres and clip-on pump, positive adjustable over centre brakes on both wheels. The disadvantage for handicapped people who would pull this chair in and out of a car themselves is that the collapsing of the chair is in three actions and necessitates getting to the back of the wheelchair. Also when it is collapsed it has to be held together with two short rubber straps. Another point about the footrests is that they cannot be used to pull the chair up into the car, because they detach from the chair.

This wheelchair is not yet made under contract for the Ministry of Health, but it can be supplied if the prescribing specialist insists that the chair has advantages for his patient that existing Ministry wheelchairs do not have. This is accepted by the Ministry of Health and applies to all makes of wheelchairs. Supplied by Newton Wheelchairs, Blackberry Lane, Halesowen, Birmingham, and costs £48.



portable lavatory seat

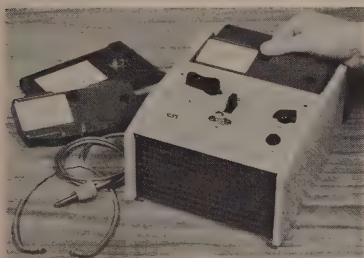
Mrs. Lloyd, sends me as a contribution for this month, the design of a portable raised lavatory seat and frame which she has designed and finds most practical when travelling with her son Peter. The whole frame unlocks and can be stowed away for carrying in a brightly coloured plastic carrier. This was made by a local firm, but should anyone be interested, plans of the design can be sent to them from this office.

car hoists for hire at £1 a week

The photograph shows the American Hoyer Kartop Lifter, costing £148 10s. 0d., supplied by Martindale Samore Ltd., Salem Road, Queensway, London, W.2. This photograph was taken at the Wingfield Orthopaedic Hospital in Oxford and shows a patient suspended on the boom.

The Society has bought one of these car top hoists to loan out for holidays at £1 a week. Whether you can borrow it does depend on the type and model of your car and potential borrowers should first contact me, N. D. B. Elwes, Aids and Appliances, The Spastics Society, 12 Park Crescent, London, W.12 Park Crescent, London, W.1, sending details of your car.

Mrs. Lloyd and her son, Peter, have kindly done an assessment for us on this hoist. Mrs. Lloyd writes at the end of the Christmas holidays in Seaford: 'The hoist has made all the difference to this holiday and expeditions such as visits to cinemas and friends are now an easy matter'.



taped books

Clark and Smith have developed with the Royal National Institute for the Blind, the new 'Talking Book', shown in this photograph. This machine will cost approximately £25 and will 'talk' from tape stored in a sealed cassette and each holding 12½ hours 'reading' time, approxi-

mately the time it takes to read an average book.

These taped books are light and small to send through the post and it is suggested that all the various organisations for the disabled, hitherto unable to use these machines, should club together and set up a central library of taped books. To this central library, the R.N.I.B. would most generously contribute copies of their 1,200 already recorded books.

HOW MANY SPASTICS would make use of a talking book at this approximate price? Please let me know as soon as possible if you are interested, as the numbers of us that are enthusiastic may play a big part in the creation of the above central library.



pleasing and functional

The Merjel Chair (left), made after many years' research by L. J. M. Reinforced Plastics, 39 High Street, Crawley, Sussex, is both functional and pleasing in appearance. Made of fibre-glass in a variety of colours, with polished aluminium metal parts, adjustable rake, footrest and removable plastic cover, it fulfils many of the features of an ideal chair for spastics. Some are in use at the Oxford Centre with most satisfactory results. The moulded wing-shapes are helpful in keeping the sitter upright. The chair body itself is drilled at its lowest point for the elimination of any fluid. A detachable tray is also available.

'Get cracking', said Mother, 'I've a shopping list for you'—

and Ernest Barnes' holiday had begun

IT IS SOMETIMES very strange how one spends weeks in pessimistic anticipation of a holiday that turns out to be most enjoyable. This happened to me at the end of last year.

I am extremely fond of my home and also of my mother, who is very old in body but not in mind, but the thought of leaving Prested with all its comforts of central heating, soft beds, hot and cold water and house-parents to do all the odds and ends, for a cottage that has no central heating, no hot water and an outside toilet, and where to heat a bedroom is regarded as the lowest form of wet nursing, is, to say the least of it, disconcerting. Also, one has to give up all one's interests and activities for eighteen days.

Planned Ahead

I therefore planned for some weeks ahead for a boring, snow-bound siege, I sent home jig-saw puzzles and lurid James Bond paper-backs, I went through the usual stage of morose discontent, although I don't think this was quite so bad as other years. On the morning of departure I lingered in the doorway of my very pleasant and comfortably warm bedroom, which now houses ninety-five per cent of my wordly possessions, and passed regretfully along the corridor, which was also comfortably warm. When we reached Kelvedon Station it was raining hard, and this further damped my spirits, as I watched the London train bear my room-mate Alan, and Judith away.

And here the strange part of the holiday begins. As my train bore me through the Suffolk and Norfolk countryside the clouds lifted higher, and with them my spirits, and to my amazement I noticed that it was getting warmer as we went North, and as the train crossed the Wenison Bridge the sun came out! My driver, Sammy, was waiting for me at Norwich with the Land-rover, and after a very pleasant ride through the wintry sunshine we arrived in Wells. At home I found a very welcome lunch of stew and dumplings. 'Hello, how are you?' said mother, 'get cracking, I've a shopping list for you, and I want a bucket of coal, and then you can lock the wash-house'.

I did as I was bid (I had no alterna-

tive). When I had finished all the jobs I was able to look around, and there just above my old armchair and nicely close to the fire, was a new 21-inch T.V. set. For mother, after fighting for years and years a tremendous battle, had succumbed at last to goggle-box fever.

'Meals will be in accordance with the programmes I want to see', said mother, 'and you'll like it or lump it'. I liked it.

The weather remained comparatively mild, and I was able to get out and about, and the typewriter that I had been so anxious to borrow for the purpose of writing time-wasting but not very cheerful letters to Judith, as I had done in the past, remained in its case for nine days, and when I did write it was only two paragraphs, hurriedly done in between doing other things.

In this time another very strange phenomenon occurred. During the eleven years that I had been at Prested Hall a large number of my old friends had died, but I had completely forgotten the hordes of children who used to accompany me and my dog on long country rambles. These children, of course, had now grown up, and as I went light-heartedly about the town many of them stopped and spoke to me, and quite a few of them displayed newly-born babies in prams. I thought this new-found popularity somewhat strange, as it was only just over three months since I had last been home, but when I asked the question they replied, 'Well, Uncle, we did speak to you in August, but you turned your ruddy nose up'. My mother, of course, very quickly supplied the accurate answer to the problem when she said, 'You were too busy being lonely and miserable to take much notice of anybody'.

The third strange thing about this holiday was that the more I enjoyed myself the more eagerly I looked forward to my return to Prested, and as we sat in front of a roaring fire on New Year's Eve with a bottle of brandy for my mother and one of whisky for myself, we clinked glasses so many times in silent toasts to all our friends, that my glass broke, and it was full, too!

This could be my last Christmas at home, but what a memory to store.

Relationships at Ponds

THIS TIME, INSTEAD of giving you a list of events that have taken place at Ponds during the last month or so, I have been asked to write a short article on a single subject.

After giving it a great amount of thought I have decided to illustrate lightly, relationships, and differences between 'the Family' and staff at Ponds. I will try to keep this entirely unbiased, so as to give you a better idea from all points of view. I sincerely hope that you can see a broader picture of Ponds by the time I have finished.

After four years of life at Ponds, I have quite a lot to say about different people who have been here.

People come from all walks of life and classes. This is encouraging for it gives a broader outlook on life. Some temporary staff may only stay for a matter of weeks or so, but during these weeks they contribute quite a bit to Ponds, both physically and mentally, and show us yet more aspects of human nature.

Other staff members stay for two or three years, or possibly longer, contributing understanding and steady long-term companionship resulting in compatibility of mind. This creates a better atmosphere in the work concerned, thereby making relationships easier for 'the family'. The atmosphere makes the tone of the place. If the atmosphere is a happy one it reflects itself on the family. It is most important to have a free atmosphere in a place like Ponds which is a residential community.

Occasionally a person approaches me and asks 'How is it you can understand a spastic person who can neither use his hands or speak?' This, I find is a simple question to answer, for over the years one can become used to a person to the extent of telling what he wants by just looking at his eyes. This is good because it enables one to carry on interesting and amusing conversations without saying a word.

Though one of these may well appear to an outsider to be a comedy scene, in as much as you are answering yourself, it is, I assure you not so at all. Although, seeing the able-bodied person gesticulating versus the spastic who is jumping about in various directions to stress a point for both to arrive at an understanding, you might well think so. This is merely one illustration of incidents continuing between a spastic and an able-bodied person, to enlighten you in the field of human relationships at Ponds.

Linton Edwards.

A Letter from Italy . . .

CALLING ALL ADULT SPASTICS

Would YOU like to attend this

INTERNATIONAL '62 CLUB CONFERENCE

to be held at
READING UNIVERSITY

on the
14th, 15th and 16th JULY, 1967

to discuss

EDUCATION & EMPLOYMENT

Application forms available from:

THE CLUB ORGANISER
THE SPASTICS SOCIETY
12 PARK CRESCENT
LONDON, W.1

Dear Mr. Hargreaves,

I have now returned to work after two months illness and one of the first things I want to do is to write, in the name of all the spastics of the Florence Club, to thank you with all our feeling for the generous sum that the Clubs of Great Britain collected for the spastics who suffered great losses during the recent flood.

This tragedy is a terrible one that we can never forget. As you already know many families saw everything that they owned being swept away by the cruel water, and many, many others lost their wheelchairs, collection of books and other precious articles that gave a meaning to their living. With this generous offer we were able and are still, lightening the suffering of all our friends.

During our Annual General Meeting a few days ago Professor Milani asked us to remember Dr. Stevens, and he told us how one of his last thoughts was to remember the spastics of Florence in their suffering. Words fail us to express our appreciation for everything.

We send you our profound and heartfelt thanks and warmest greetings.

Gabriella Bertini,
(President, Club All'Ertà).

'62 CLUBS SUPPLEMENT

April issue—1967

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SALUTI AI NOSTRI AMICI ITALIANI

THE CHESTER '62 CLUB'S contribution for the Florence Relief Fund was raised by a Raffle organised by the trainees of the Chester Office Training Centre; tickets were printed as an exercise for office training! The draw took place during a lunch hour break, David Brophy (sitting by the typewriter) organised the affair and Susan Fitzpatrick picked out the lucky numbers while Mrs. Parker, Principal of the Centre, kept an eye on the proceedings. Some of the winners were not present at the draw so, at our next Club meeting, where thirty-one members were busy with their 'Eyes Down' at a Bingo session, tension was relaxed while prizes were distributed.

—Bedford is Lively

History shows that Bedford's first connection with '62 Clubs came about in April, 1964, when Larry York wrote inquiring about the then relatively new '62 Clubs. A Club they called, The Young Adult Spastic's Club, had then been in existence a number of years, having first been formed by the local group, and had already achieved a certain amount of independence, meeting regularly at Drayton House, the local group's Work Centre. They were then, and still are, actively involved in a very comprehensive programme, which included the running of their own National Savings Group. After attending the Club Officers' Conference in February, 1965, the whole idea of '62 Clubs became more interesting and they began to wonder if some of the aims and objects set out in the model constitution could be adopted by themselves, so after a great deal of discussion between all interested parties, they finally accepted a slightly amended version of the Constitution in October, 1965, also changing the Club's title to 'The Y.A.S. '62 Club'.

Personalities. Well, there are quite a few, who have, and still are, contributing to its ultimate independence. Susan Nash is one of them who has been a member for a number of years and at the moment is

the Treasurer for the local Police Force. Since the formation of the '62 Club Advisory Panel, Susan has travelled up to London quarterly, contributing to its efforts by her presence and on the Local Group Committee she is an undoubted asset. It has been Susan's experience in work-a-day life, I think, that has been of most value. Larry York, Secretary, is a very happy man at the moment having become engaged to club member Ann Watson. Larry makes a perfect secretary, owing to his ability (among other things) to reply promptly to all letters. Always an asset don't you think? An Associate Member, Councillor Brian Dillingham, whose profession is textile designing, has recently joined them and is offering advice and help in a true Associate Member manner. His expert help showed up most vividly at their A.G.M. last month, when they put on an exhibition of paintings done by their members.

There are quite a few more personalities, but, owing to lack of space, I am unable to mention them all here, except their Chairman, Michael Ravensdale, whose handling of any meeting, be it Committee or Social, is most diplomatic. By the way, it would be a shame if I ended this paragraph without mentioning



ENGAGED!

Larry York, the Secretary of the Bedford Club is engaged to Club member Ann Watson—here is a recent photograph of the happy couple

the 'romance' resulting between Brenda Minney (an Assoc. Member) and Paul Rassmusen (who comes from Denmark). They met for the first time, whilst attending the Nottingham Conference last April. After their wedding on Midsummer's Day, Paul will be taking Brenda back to Denmark, where they will be setting up home.

Final Facts: Bedford has a membership of 56, a quarter of these being wheelchair people. The transport problem is being tackled with the help of the Local Group and friends, and their immediate future concern is to attract more adult spastics and other lightly handicapped people to the Club, so that in doing so, they are able to incorporate more heavily disabled spastic people in their activities. Their meetings are held every Friday, from 7 p.m. to 9.30 p.m. at Drayton House, 73 Bromham Road, Bedford.

In conclusion I think that the adult and responsible attitude of its officers and members towards its problems has, and will continue to contribute towards a highly successful future.

Marianne West.



Bedford '62 Club's St. Valentine's Party went with a swing, and no wonder, there are 56 members and most of them seemed to turn up!

Editor's note—*I am hoping to feature a '62 Club in every issue now, be you big, or be you small, be you new, or be you old. So look out, it may be yours next time!*

... the day I met my heart-throb

by

JANICE HANCOCK

(Programme Secretary, London Club)



GEORGE MAHARIS

IT ALL BEGAN one Friday evening last July when my father brought a paper cutting home from work. In the paper was a picture of a tall, dark and very handsome man, namely, George Maharis, star of Television's 'Route 66', and my favourite actor and singer. Underneath was a paragraph saying George was visiting England, and would be appearing on Television the following Sunday. I couldn't believe my eyes. I had always hoped that one day George would come over to England, and that I would be able to meet him. I decided to write to him at his London hotel, to see if it would be possible to get tickets for a show, if he was appearing in one, other than his Television appearance. I hoped that perhaps he would write me a few lines personally, but did

not dream of the consequences which were to follow.

We did not hear anything until the following Wednesday evening at six o'clock. My mother was in the middle of cooking our meal, when our telephone rang. Who should be on the line but George himself inviting us to his hotel that evening at eleven thirty. I couldn't believe it. George had actually rung us up and we were going to see him in less than six hours' time! When mum got back to her cooking everything was burnt, but I felt too excited to eat.

I don't know how I got through the evening, but eventually it was time to leave our home, and we were soon at the Mayfair Hotel. As we entered the foyer a porter came and told us George would

be a little late, but would we please wait. We found a corner table and waited for the man himself to arrive.

Suddenly at about quarter to twelve, the doors swung open and in walked George Maharis! As handsome as ever. Before he came over to our table, he stopped to speak to some friends sitting at a table not far from ours. After a while George saw me and came over to us. The great moment had finally arrived! We all introduced ourselves and shook hands. The formalities being over we all sat down and had a nice long chat.

After we had been talking for several minutes George asked me if I had any interests, I told him I read a lot and collected records (especially his). To my astonishment George went over and asked his manager, who was sitting at the other table, to fetch a copy of his latest record 'Rules of the Road' for me. Needless to say it is now one of my most treasured possessions. George then said he hoped to be returning to England a few months later to record an album and asked if I would like to be there when he made it. I have always wanted to attend a recording session, especially if George is going to be there, so I am keeping my fingers crossed that he comes back soon.

All good things come to an end and this was no exception. After we had been talking for about forty minutes, George got up and bade us goodbye, he shook hands with my parents and then bent down and kissed me in my wheelchair. I have never washed that side of my face since! The last I saw of George was his broad shoulders and slim waist disappearing through the door.

George Maharis is not only a superb actor and singer, but a great individual. Come back to England again very soon, George!



NORTH LONDON '62 CLUB (Left)

N. LONDON is the only Club (so far) that has been able to persuade the Local Authority to supply transport for their more heavily disabled members. At their recent A.G.M., Cathy Cox, was elected as Chairman. The retiring Chairman, Marion Lucas, (née Lingwood) has a good reason for relinquishing her post owing to the 'happy event' expected soon. She and her husband are seated on the far right-hand corner of the picture

TRANSPORT—A PROBABLE ANSWER (Right)

ON HIS JOURNEY from Club to Club, Bill Hargreaves is often asked the vexed question, 'How can we find voluntary drivers to assist with the transport of the more severely disabled?' This always has been a most difficult nut to crack, but it has certainly been split wide open by the Manchester Club. A few weeks ago Bill Hargreaves received a very kind invitation to attend the Manchester '62 Club Dinner, which was being held in order to say 'thank you' to the forty-odd voluntary drivers who give their time and services to very handicapped members, bringing them to the Cross Street Chapel where the Club meets.

'How did they do it?' Well, perfectly simple really when you know! They merely advertised in the local paper, and lo and behold, forty replies were received! Full marks to Manchester for their initiative. Incidentally, their dinner was an enormous success, and the accompanying picture shows the Chairman, Miss Linda Hodson, the Treasurer, Mr. Alan Norton. Also in the picture on the left is the Chairman of the Manchester & District Spastics Society, Mrs. D. M. Snowdon. The dinner was prepared and served by voluntary workers, and as you can see by the table, it was a really grand spread



● A steering committee to form a **Walthamstow '62 Club** has been set up, with an old member of the **London Club** in the chair, John Queenborough. Previously John had been Chairman of the **Leicester Club**. Their first project is to visit all adult spastics in the area, inviting them to become members.

● Edward Marriot of **Scunthorpe** has been very busy forming a **Scunthorpe '62 Club**, and Bill Hargreaves has been invited to their next meeting.

● The Spastics Group at **Coalville** is now very actively trying to interest the handicapped to form a Club and are calling a meeting of all interested on 20th April.



LEICESTER & DISTRICT SPASTICS SOCIAL CLUB
(Affiliated to the '62 Clubs)

NOT SO LONG AGO Bill 'H' and Pamela 'M' dropped in on a handicrafts evening at Leicester. They are very fortunate in having an enterprising instructor who is able to get their members really interested in Arts and Crafts. This session was preceded by a full Committee Meeting, with only one 'able body' in attendance. Main item on the agenda was Transport, this being a real problem owing to the cost. They feel that they must supply this service, because their membership covers such a wide area, a great number of them being heavily disabled. This is an age old problem and one that requires an awful lot of beating

WINCHESTER '62 CLUB

BILL HARGREAVES and I went to a meeting of Winchester '62 Club in February. It was a social evening with a super tea, we had a very happy time. Bill Hargreaves also gave a talk to the members. As you can see by the photo, the centre has a very nice kitchen where members can do the splendid chore of washing-up by themselves in the true '62 club style

P.M.

ODE TO PAMELA

(on becoming a Bed-Sit Girl)

Mr. Hargreaves' new assistant
Is really quite persistent—
Although she is a spastic
With working hours elastic,
She makes Annie's office merry
With her skirmishes with Gerry
From the Chief Accountant's Office—
Who has such dash and polish.

Mr. Hargreaves' new assistant
Is really quite persistent—
In order to live cheaply
Lived with Aunty, but got sleepy
So moved to a bed-sitter
And now feels so much fitter
Minus a fellow snorer,
But, of course, she's much, much poorer.

Mr. Hargreaves' new assistant
Is really quite persistent—
And though poor is such an eater
That she visits Marianne and Peter
To have a smashing dinner,
And to stop getting any thinner
She'll eat a doughnut willy-nilly—
Starving does seem somewhat silly!

Mr. Hargreaves' new assistant
Is really quite persistent—
The country she goes up and down
To save a Club about to drown,
To give a talk or run a course—
Gets a bit tired—rather hoarse.
Although this ain't the place for quotes
It shows our Pammy knows 'her oaks'!

Anne Rae,

(Bill Hargreaves' Secretary)

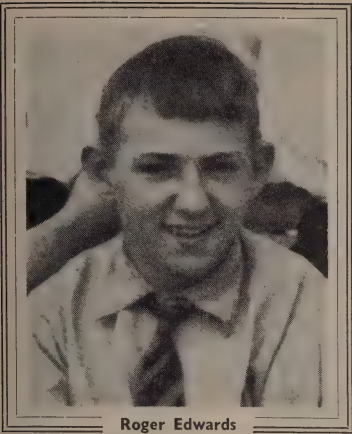


BLACKPOOL '62 CLUB NEW YEAR'S PARTY

I WAS INVITED to the New Year's Party given by Blackpool '62 Club on January 5th. It was very well attended by members and their relatives and friends. It certainly was a fantastic sight to see the guests arrive, there was Maid Marion, Dr. Kildare, Robin Hood, Laurence of Arabia, Batman's Friend Robin and Phillip Harben, and many others. There were even two magnificent veteran cars!

I was asked to judge the fancy dress, a most difficult task, they were all so good. After a great struggle I decided to choose Phillip Harben, Robin Hood and one of the veteran cars. They had an excellent group with a marvellous beat, even I danced most of the evening! We had lots of lovely grub, and I congratulated them on a superbly arranged evening

P.M.



Roger Edwards

Poems by Roger Edwards

The Service

You have heard of Llandow, the village in the valley of the hills?
 I have a story to tell about the village vicar.
 His name is Williams, a very ordinary person in the eyes of God
 But in the eyes of his flock he is a saint.
 Each Sunday he goes to his chapel on the hill
 And preaches to his flock of sheep—
 Sheep are foolish animals, if one goes the whole lot go.
 Today the hall is full of whispering, jingle-jangling people
 Who wear this mask for the Sunday gathering.
 If Williams only knew how his people acted.
 While he takes the service, Mary Hughes, the girl with the sweet voice
 Makes eyes at Thomas Evans;
 Before him lies the sweet-tooth row of the church;
 At the back of the hall sit the chitter-chattering church-goers.
 They think they are the ones who belong to God's Kingdom.
 Williams is giving the congregation his blessing,
 The organ sounds, the service is over,
 And the congregation goes back to the bingo halls and pubs
 And lives a religious or irreligious life.



Goddess by the River

There she sits setting the park alight with her beauty,
 While I sit watching the lumps of bread leave her hand,
 The swans only come for the bread—once eaten they leave.
 The noise of humanity is left outside the gates of the park.
 My mind settles down to think my self-pitying thoughts—
 I only come to be noticed but each day I leave unnoticed.
 I think, 'Will someone ever be kind and say hello?
 Or will I just be a nobody, a hidden face in the crowd?'
 Suddenly my thoughts are broken when the noise of children's voices
 rings in my ears.

I look and see her walking away—Come back!
 But my voice is quiet and I see her walk out of my life.
 Now they are out of sight and I walk towards the gate,
 Only the swans are left in the loveless park.



ROGER EDWARDS, the 18-year-old author of these poems, comes from Bargoed, a small village at the edge of the Rhymney Valleys in South Wales. He lives with his widowed father (an ex-miner who has not worked for some years owing to chest troubles) a married sister, her husband and their three children.

Roger, who is confined to a wheelchair, has to be carried upstairs but his father has partitioned off a special little 'office' for him on the ground floor of their house in the main street of Bargoed, which used to be a shop. Here he can retire from the rough and tumble of family life and work in peace. He types out his own poems and stories on a machine lent by The Spastics Society, and despite severe hand difficulties, manages very well.

Between the ages of 10 and 16, Roger went to Erw'r Delyn in Penarth, a school for all types of physically handicapped pupils. The teachers here encouraged his talent for writing and inspired in him a great love of reading which has lasted up to the present time. He reads mainly books about sport now, but also likes James Bond and other spy stories.

Like most teenagers, he enjoys listening to records, mainly of pop music. He is a keen supporter of Cardiff City football team and goes to their matches whenever he can. He keeps the scores of various other football teams whose progress he follows on television and has invented a football game of his own, using cardboard figures.

Despite his severe handicaps and the isolated area in which he lives, Roger obviously has a lively mind and a keen sense of observation. Of the two poems published here, I thought 'The Service' showed great insight, and I liked the way in which the gentle irony of this contrasts with the more wistful mood of 'Goddess by the River'.

Another Welsh poet, Dylan Thomas, once wrote, 'Praise the Lord, we are a musical nation'. Roger Edwards shows the same feeling for the rhythm of words as his famous compatriot, but his style is completely his own. **A.P.**

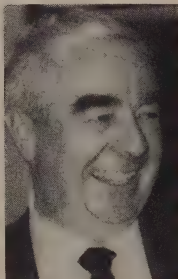
the Stars in their Courses . .

News of the
STARS ORGANISATION
FOR SPASTICS

collected by
'THE CALLBOY'



Simon Dee and Joan Turner at the Walt Disney party



Mr. Jimmy Johnson,
President of the Walt
Disney Organisation

Mr. and Mrs.
Wilfred Pickles

the Music of Walt Disney

The Walt Disney Organisation in conjunction with The Spastics Society, organised a Press Conference recently to launch a new L.P. with a playing time of 45 minutes, which is called *'The Music of Walt Disney'*.

This record has been made by the Walt Disney Organisation in America for the purpose of raising money for charity. The Organisation have generously offered half the proceeds from sales of the record in Great Britain to The Spastics Society. At the date of going to press 16,000 copies have been sold which will bring in an income of £2,400.

The Press Conference was attended by many S.O.S. members who also brought along some of their friends. They included David Jacobs, Don Moss, Alan Freeman, Bill Crozier, Simon Dee, Keith Fordyce and Alan King, which was a wonderful representation from the world of pop music.

We were also thrilled that Jean Aubrey, Avril Angers, Maudie Edwards, Susan Hampshire, Diane Hart, Hy Hazell, Vera Lynn, Tony Osborne, Wilfred and Mabel Pickles, Harry Secombe and Joan Turner were able to pop in and hear the record, but perhaps the greatest thrill for all of us was to meet the President of the Walt Disney Organisation, Mr. Jimmy Johnson, who had flown to London especially for the occasion.



Hy Hazell
and
Diane Hart

bang-on at Hemel Hempstead

The concert which was arranged at Hemel Hempstead on Sunday, 26th February, by Leslie Crowther in conjunction with Mr. Peter Holness, the Chairman of the Hemel Hempstead Physically Handicapped Work Centre, was a great success and it is hard to know whether the cast or the audience enjoyed themselves the most.

Leslie Crowther had been very successful in obtaining a first-class bill which opened with Ivan Dozin conducting the Victoria Palace Orchestra. David Jacobs started the proceedings by welcoming the audience and introducing Leslie who soon had the audience laughing.

Those who kindly gave their services included: Barry Monroe, Margo Henderson, Rawicz and Landauer, Alan Freeman, Neville King, Joan Regan. Johnnie Stewart and Jim Moir produced. Nearly £1,000 was raised.



The Hemel Hempstead Concert (L. to R.): Leslie Crowther, George Chisholm, Elspeth Hands, Ricky Poole, Christine Holmes, Don Moss



David Jacobs and Vera Lynn

(right): Harry Secombe



Charming Susan Hampshire pictured here at the party, has announced her engagement to a French film Director. Felicitations, Susan!

fashion for 'switched-on' spastics

LET'S FACE IT, few spastics look right in the mini-skirt. Just above the knee is probably the best length for those whose walk is less than perfect. However, it is amazing how many other present-day fashions might have been designed with handicapped women in mind.

Trouser suits, for example, are more elegant than short tight skirts for the chairbound. The trend towards slacks which are cut wider in the leg than previously means that surgical boots and calipers can be hidden underneath and the new long jackets are a useful disguise for wide hips. To be really smart, however, the outfit must be a proper trouser-suit—not just any old jacket and slacks.

For extra warmth, tights are a comfort, worn under either slacks or skirts. Incidentally, the kind with legs in sheer nylon, now being made to go with minis could prove a help to anyone who has difficulty with suspenders.

The more ambulant will be grateful for the arrival of shoes with thicker heels, after years of either teetering perilously around on stilettos, or clumping dowdily in flatties. Long boots, too, are another switched-on way of keeping warm—an important consideration for spastics, who are usually chilly mortals.

At the other extremity, straight hair styles are a further blessing, worn either short or very long. However, even the sleekest coiffure needs occasional setting on jumbo rollers to give body. The easiest rollers to handle are probably those which fasten with elastic band and bobble but unfortunately these do not seem to be available in the larger sizes.

In the field of cosmetics, it is sometimes worth paying a little more money. The cheapest brands of lipsticks, for instance, tend to break off if pressed too hard against the skin. Those which come in chunky cases are easiest to grasp. Nail varnish is a problem for shaky hands, but the bits that go over the edge can usually be picked off the skin when dry.

Roll-on mascara is not too difficult to apply, but eye-liner needs a very steady hand, and probably defeats most athetoids. Personally, finding a thick line easier to draw than a thin one, I cover my whole lid with blue eye-liner, but such a dark shadow might not suit everybody.

After all, the secret of good fashion is to adapt the prevailing trends according to what suits you, personally, and if you can use the latest styles to simplify life or minimise a handicap, so much the better.

Anne Plummer.



(Courtesy: Lilian Ream Ltd.)

WINDFALL FOR PETERBOROUGH: A cheque for £65 and a donation of £5 being presented to Mr. M. Stapleton of Peterborough and District Society by Mr. Bert Cousins, right, treasurer of the Railway Darts Club, who had taken part in darts competitions for some months

POTTERY FOR SPASTIC STUDENTS

TEACHERS OF POTTERY who have visited the Podmore works at Stoke-on-Trent, attended training sessions or made use of the technical advisory services all pay tribute to the valuable reservoir of experience which is available to pottery students at all levels. In extending these services to the Occupational Therapy departments of hospitals and to those teaching the mentally handicapped, the well-known firm of Podmore and Sons have joined forces with some of our leading educationalists to whom the value of a tactile approach to this type of teaching is well known.

In particular their consultant craft potter, Mr. Harold Powell, is very much aware of the value of teaching craft pottery to the spastic child and has made a special study of the needs of these children. Of all the crafts available to them this is probably the most useful. With simple tools the children can achieve most satisfying results and in their hands the soft, smooth clay has a most soothing and therapeutic effect, relaxing tired muscles and easing mental tension.

A session of modelling and pottery making is especially valuable after the struggles of using pens and rulers in formal lessons and to some extent it should calm and relax the children in much the same way as a visit to the swimming baths. The more seriously

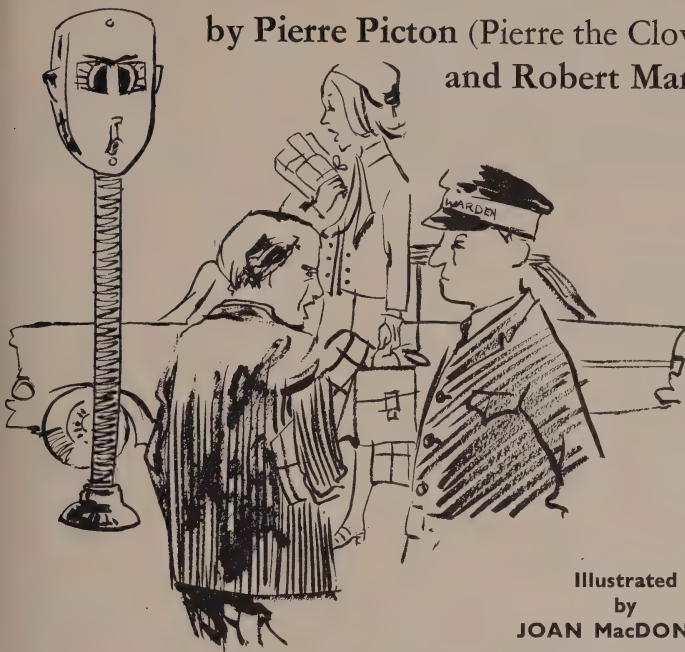
handicapped children should be encouraged to press and shape the clay with hands, arms, and possibly bare feet. Experience has shown that many attractive abstract forms are produced in this way which lend themselves to firing and decorating with glossy colourful glazes. These abstract models give great pleasure to the children and are often the most treasured and highly prized in their collection of pottery models.

One must always consider the danger involved in the use of knives and sharp tools by such pupils and indeed, because of this many crafts are denied them. Podmores have the answer to this problem in the form of special wooden tools and a varied range of tile cutters. Aided by the latter the student is able to cut a variety of tile shapes with absolute safety and accuracy. The planning of schemes, inventing of patterns and the fitting of tiles into table tops, mats, wall decorations, etc., will ensure many hours of pleasurable creative effort.

Podmores will gladly advise on the correct clays and materials to use and can provide a large variety of glazes and stains for use with their clays. Just drop them a line indicating your particular interests and mentioning any problems or difficulties. The address is: Messrs. Podmore and Sons Limited, New Caledonian Mills, Shelton, Stoke-on-Trent.

Sophie and Sarah

by Pierre Picton (Pierre the Clown)
and Robert Martin



Illustrated
by
JOAN MacDONALD

'My time isn't up', said the man angrily

whisper to Sophie and Sarah. 'Tell them about the accident. It shook me up so much that my face went yellow before it was time—so the man is right'.

'Well, go on, go on!' said Sarah, shaking herself so that she made Sophie bob up and down. 'Tell him, tell him!'

Gordon the Warden had walked to the front of the man's car to write down the licence number. The man was still protesting that his time was not up.

Sophie said to Sarah: 'All right then. I'll tell Gordon. But you'll have to jump down this big kerb and take me around to the front of the car'.

'Simple', said Sarah. 'Just press my arms to lift and press your elbows on my back to slow down'.

Sophie pressed the arms and Sarah at once lifted up and floated over the kerb. Then Sophie pressed her elbows on the back and Sarah glided gently on to her wheels.

'Excuse me, Mister Gordon', said Sophie, 'but I'm afraid it's my fault the meter's face turned yellow. I hit it with my chair. Look—it's bent. And when I hit it, the yellow came quicker than it should have done'.

Gordon looked at Sophie, then at Sarah, then at Peter, then at the man.

'Well, I dunno', said Gordon, lifting his peaked cap and scratching his head. 'I've never seen such a thing happen before. Yes, I can see where you hit the meter'. He looked seriously at Sophie.

Continued overleaf

Part 2 THE ACCIDENT

A MAN CAME PUFFING up the hill. His wife was struggling along behind him, carrying heavy shopping bags.

'You and your shopping!' the man grumbled. 'I told you I had to move the car in an hour. But did you take any notice? Oh no—not you!' He stopped in front of Peter.

Sophie said: 'I'm sorry. Am I in the way?'

The man looked down at her and Sarah, and all the crossness went out of his face.

'No', he said. 'No, dear, of course you're not in the way. You stay there as long as you like'.

Gordon the Warden came up to them. 'Ha!' said Gordon. 'I see we have stayed over our time'.

'Just a few minutes', said the man. 'Not even that, by my watch'.

'Minutes is minutes, and time is time', said Sophie the Warden, taking out his book and ball-point pen. 'That's what my dear mother always used to say, Gordon, she'd say. If you are a minute late, you are late. If you are a minute early,

you are early. If you are on time, then that's that'.

'That's what?' said the man angrily.

'On time', said Gordon. 'Which you are not. So that's going to cost you extra money'.

Sophie felt Sarah jogging her and whispering: 'Look—poor Peter's crying!' Sophie looked at Peter's glass eyes and saw big drops of water.

'It's raindrops', she said. 'Meters don't cry'.

'Some of them do', said Peter, sniffing and trembling his needle-nose. 'But only you nice people who have the magic touch can see or hear us'.

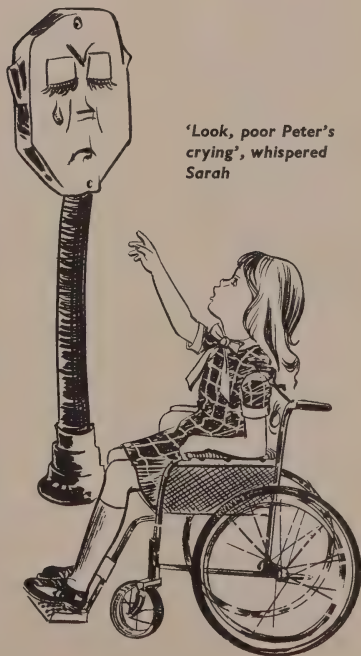
'Then why are you crying?' Sophie asked.

'Eh?' said Gordon the Warden. 'I'm not crying, miss'.

'Not yet', said the angry man, 'but you will be'. He shook his fist at Gordon. 'My time isn't up—and anyway, this meter is bent, so I say it's out of order'.

'A fine excuse—I don't think!' said Gordon scornfully.

'Oh please, please!' said Peter in a



'Look, poor Peter's crying', whispered Sarah

News Briefs from Coombe Farm

by ANN PEARCE

Sophie and Sarah (continued)

'I shall have to report this. Very bad it is. Hitting meters'.

'It was an accident', said Sophie. 'I couldn't let this gentleman take the blame'.

'That's very kind and honest of you', said the man.

And his wife said: 'Henry, how much longer are you going to keep me waiting? I have to get home and feed the baby.'

'Yes, my dear. Coming right away'. The man glared at Mister Gordon and said: 'Unless you still think I should have a ticket for my fine? And if you do, I shall refuse to pay'.

'Go', said Gordon the Warden. 'Go, go, go! This young lady has raised a doubt about the meter. I don't like doubts raised about my meters. So I won't take action this time'.

When Henry and his wife had gone off in their car, Gordon put a red hood over Peter's head. A red hood with white letters which said: 'Out of order'.

Sophie floated Sarah back on to the pavement. Sarah stopped close to Peter.

'It's dark in here', said Peter. 'Silly old Gordon!' Peter made a clicking noise. 'Oh dear, now I've got tummyache! Somebody pushed in a bent coin earlier this morning, and bent coins really do upset me. And now he's put this silly old hood on so I can't see those lovely ladies'.

Sarah shivered her wheels and said: 'Do you really think I'm lovely?'

'The loveliest thing on wheels I've ever seen'.

'And you're the tallest, smartest meter I've ever seen'.

'Your friend Sophie is lovely too. And if she could reach up and pull off this hood, I could see you properly'.

Sarah swivelled herself close so that Sophie could pull off the hood.

'Ah! That's better!' said Peter. 'Now you can help me do my magic, can't you?'

'Oh yes, yes!' said Sophie. 'We'll help you, won't we, Sarah?'

'We are helping', said Sarah, creaking and trembling with the power of her magic efforts. 'See?'

Peter the Meter shook the dirt off his feet and bowed gallantly as he said: 'Shall we go, ladies?' He hitched himself on to Sarah's foot-rest, leaned his head on her top handles and winked at Sophie. 'You

needn't put any money in', said Peter. 'This is on me'.

'Where are we going?' said Sophie. Peter snuggled down contentedly as Sarah the magic chair sent them zooming up the High Street hill and out into the green, green country.

'Home', said Peter. 'Home?' said Sophie. 'Where is that?'

'Where I come from', said Peter. 'That's where home is. And where we're going—that's where home is. Faster, faster, faster, my lovely Sarah! Ooh, did you ever see or hear such splendidous wheels!'

'I've got a home', said Sophie. 'You must come there one day'.

'Love to', said Peter. 'Got any brothers?'

'No. Have you?'

'Lots—lots and lots and lots and lots. That's how many. Meters and meters and meters of them. You'll like it there. Because you like magic and so do I, and so does Sarah. And we all will bring magic to my little brothers. Aah! Isn't this good?'

Peter blinked his eyes, his face turned white, and the sixpences jingled in his tummy. And Sarah went zoom-zoom pip-pip past all the traffic, and Sophie felt light as the air and gay as the flowers and tall as the green, green hills around them.

(To be continued)



'This is on me', said Peter, winking

THIS IS THE FIRST newsletter from Coombe Farm. The Editor thought that readers would be interested to have an insight into what is going on at Coombe Farm, because residents lead a busy social life as well as doing the day's work. In January we had a New Year's party to which parents and friends were invited. During the party a film was shown on the outings and the progress which was made throughout the last year. Among those present were Mr. and Mrs. Burn and Mr. Loring, from Headquarters. Each year in January a number of the residents go to a party in Redhill. The party consists of plenty to eat, a good show of laughter and a gift to take home. We have Mrs. Parsons and many other good helpers to thank for this party. Some of us went to the Ice Show 'Sleeping Beauty', at Wembley in February. This was very colourful to watch. And, says one of our lads, 'Some gorgeous ladies were on show'.

Three residents with six of the staff from Coombe Farm attended Requiem Mass for the late Dr. Stevens on Tuesday, 7th February. Mrs. Stevens came and spoke to the residents before the service began. Coombe Farm has started a 'Friends Society'. The first meeting was held in February and proved itself a success. The idea of this Society is to help the residents to live a more social life outside the Centre.

We had a surprise the other week. We received a wonderful new ciné projector from the Independent Order of Foresters, Court Surrey. These people are coming to see the projector being used for a film show in the spring.

Victor Hancox is going to the Technical College for art once a week in Croydon. Here Victor is treated like the rest of the students of the class despite his great handicap. Victor enjoys his weekly teaching at the College—not only for art, but for the pretty sights in mini-skirts too!

Those of us who are members of the Youth Club in Croydon are going to see the show, 'Charlie Girl', with the rest of the Club members. We will travel to and from London by Coombe Farm's coach.

The Scampi Swimming Club, which we call ourselves, gave a party and an entertainment to the Swimming Clubs around London. This was a great success.

Mr. Lyster-Binns

Mr. Noel Lyster-Binns, who recently joined the Society as Assistant Director, Appeals and Information, has now resigned.

Mobile Exhibition Vehicles Itineraries

NORTHERN CIRCUIT

Date	Location
APRIL	
9th	To Hereford
10th-14th	Hereford Shire Forecourt
16th-22nd	Wellington Clifton Cinema
24th-29th	Birmingham, Bull Ring
MAY	
1st-4th	Grantham, Market Place
5th	To Nottingham

SOUTHERN CIRCUIT

APRIL	
21st-22nd	Welling Embassy Court Shopping Centre Car Park
24th-28th	Eastbourne, Health Exhibition
30th	Willesden, Forecourt, St. Andrews Church Hall
MAY	
2nd-3rd	Lewisham, Forecourt, Lewisham Town Hall
4th	To Bromley



(Courtesy: Merthyr Express)

Jack Rea (third from left), Irish snooker champion since 1947, with members of the Merthyr Conservative Club, whom he played in exhibition matches for spastics. With him are: Mr. Glyn Simons, chairman of the Games Committee, Mr. Ron Price, Mr. Tom Medd and Mr. A. E. Bell, vice-presidents of the Club

BILLIARDS AND SNOOKER ● ● ●

APRIL

3rd	High Brooms Workmen's, High Brooms Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent	J. Rea
4th	Leiston Cons. Club, Waterloo Avenue, Leiston, Suffolk	J. Rea
4th	Newtown Social Club, Durham Road, Stockton-on-Tees	K. Kennerley
5th	Benwell Social Club, Condercum Road, Newcastle-on-Tyne	K. Kennerley
6th	Kingston Workmen's Club, London Road, Kingston-on-Thames	J. Rea
7th	Streatham Cons. Club, Leigham Court Road, Streatham, S.W.16	J. Rea
10th	Lady of Lourdes Club, Plodder Lane, Farnworth, Lancs.	J. Rea
11th	Chorley Labour Club, East Street, Chorley, Lancs.	J. Rea
12th	Lilycroft Workmen's Club, Toller Lane, Bradford	J. Gardner and J. Spencer
13th	Steel, Peech & Tozer Social Club, The Ickles, Rotherham	J. Gardner and K. Kennerley

17th	Wellington Tube Works Club, Great Bridge, Tipton, Staffs.	J. Gardner and J. Rea
18th	Parr Labour Club, Boardmans Lane, Parr, St. Helens	J. Gardner and J. Rea
19th	Irlam Catholic Club, Liverpool Road, Irlam, Manchester	J. Gardner and J. Rea
20th	St. Wilfreds Club, Longridge, Preston	J. Gardner and J. Rea
21st	St. Williams Club, Patricroft Road, Higher Ince, Wigan	J. Gardner and J. Rea
22nd	Star Hotel, South Promenade, Blackpool	J. Gardner and J. Rea
24th	Cudworth Village Club, Cudworth, near Barnsley, Yorks.	J. Spencer
24th	Devonshire Club, Parliament Street, Morecambe	J. Rea
25th	St. James' Club, Barton Street, Gloucester	J. Rea
26th	Paper Mills Club, Outwood, near Radcliffe, near Manchester	J. Rea
29th	Keighley Liberal Club, Scott Street, Keighley, Yorks.	J. Rea and J. Spencer

HOLIDAY ADDRESSES

The Holiday Address List is now available for 1967. It is intended as a guide to the many types of holiday accommodation in England and Wales suitable for spastics and contains details of holiday homes, hotels and guest houses, children's homes, bungalows, caravans and holiday flats.

To obtain a copy of this new booklet, please apply to the Holiday Organiser, The Spastics Society, 12 Park Crescent, London W.1.

500 WOODEN TRAYS

These trays, 15in. by 27in., with a plywood base and a wooden rail round the edge are available for any School or Centre from:—

Spastics Work Centre,
Dovercourt Road, Bristol 7.

For incontinent spastics and all sufferers of bladder ailments

MEDIC PANTS

Made in super-soft lanolised plastic; expertly tailored for freedom of movement and comfort.

Medium (4 to 10 years)	-	-	-	-	4s. 0d.
Large (Teenagers)	-	-	-	-	5s. 0d.
Extra Large (Adults)	-	-	-	-	5s. 9d.
O.S. (44" to 48" Hips)	-	-	-	-	6s. 6d.
Plus 6d. postage					

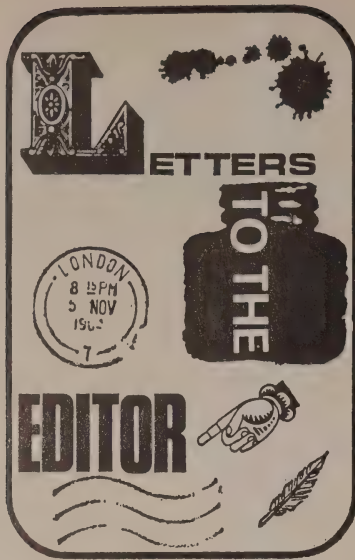
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Order direct or, through Boots the Chemist

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WINDALE HOUSE, PRIORS WOOD ROAD, HERTFORD HEATH, HERTFORDSHIRE

This letter wins a guinea!



SYMPATHY NO PARADOX

Dear Editor,

In 'Trendy Athetoid's letter 'The Paradox of Sympathy' there is the appeal for spastics to be met on the everyday level of personal contact.

It was a joy to me to realise that rarely in my long life as a spastic have I experienced anything but the everyday level of contact. In my childhood, psychology was not practised as such. My mother would not have known what the word meant, but she was a psychologist. I could walk with help and being an only child I was sent out with a young attendant to play and fight with other children. In winter-time they came to our house and Saturdays were filled with music and childhood. None of my playmates (bless

them) ever made me feel awkward or different; but they spoiled me by not giving me away when they were blamed for some mischief which I had instigated.

Then Jonathan came along, the other psychologist in my life. He completed my 'levelling' and stood no nonsense. I was called a silly ass and had my ears boxed. Such admonishments were usually administered when he was pushing my heavy invalid chair up a steep hill or over a rough farm road.

I sometimes envy spastics of today with all their benefits and opportunities but I can also wish them the everyday level of personal contact to which I look back with gratefulness and love.

I must stop, as the friend who stands no nonsense is going to type this for me. 'ANCIENT SPASTIC'.

A LETTER FROM IRELAND

Dear Editor,

I would like to state my views about how so-called normal people treat spastics.

We had visitors (nurses) in our school this week. When my teacher told one of them I was learning Latin and Algebra, the lady asked her if I was intelligent! I was too polite to ask if she had any intelligence.

Why do people ask my mother or my father or my brothers or sister or *anybody* except me if I would like another cup of coffee (or anything else)?

Why do people think that because I cannot walk I should be at the Andy Pandey story book stage, and seem so surprised that I can read books?

Why do ladies pat me on the back and admire my 'lovely brown eyes' as if I were a two-year-old?

Are they really normal at all?

Yours sincerely, DECAN O'KEEFE,
(aged 12), 5 Ferrard Road, Terenure,
Dublin 6.

MORE INDEPENDENCE

Dear Editor,

I have recently attended an assessment course at Colwall Court, Bexhill-on-Sea. I had never been away from home before, and was a little worried how I was going to cope, but to my surprise I found that I automatically did things I had never done before. I found that this course has taught me a lot of independence by the lectures I heard, and some of the people who gave them were spastic themselves, this has encouraged me consid-

STELLA SYKES.



(Courtesy: Halifax Evening Courier)

THE NEW HOSTEL AT HALIFAX

THE OTHER day I went around to the Society's new Hostel, Heath Bank, Linden Road, Halifax. It is a spacious Victorian villa set in about two acres of ground. There are two large bedrooms downstairs, bathroom, dining room and a large lounge which could be used for dancing, movies, etc, also the kitchen. Upstairs there are more bedrooms and a large recreation room. There are now six residents and they told me that they can accommodate fifteen in all, there will be both men and women so there should be some fun.

Some of the residents are going to the local centre where they are doing a number of jobs such as assembling components for computers, threading string through labels and wrapping toffees for a local firm, coat hangers are also made for cleaners. It is all very useful work done under the supervision and capable hands of Mr. Crowther. Some other spastics are going to open employment in the town.

Mr. and Mrs. Austin, the Hostel Wardens, are delightful people, they put everyone at ease straight away. They are parents themselves with a married daughter also a teenage daughter who I feel sure will be a great asset to the one big family who are making their home at Heath Bank. Mr. and Mrs. Austin were at Sherrards for a number of years and also at Prested Hall for a year, so they have had plenty of experience.

I am sure they will make a great success of it.

Letters to the Editor (Cont'd)

erably to put up a greater fight to overcome my disability.

I would like to pay tribute to the staff from the Society who escorted us on this trip, and the love, sympathetic consideration shown to me. May I offer my sincere thanks to all concerned in the organisation of such courses, and I only hope that this letter will encourage other students to take this step to overcome their difficulties.

To bring the course to a close a party and dance was arranged.

Yours faithfully, J. Fox (Miss), 146 Bucknall New Road, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent.

DOCUMENTARIES IN COLOUR

Dear Editor

There are many informative and enjoyable documentaries shot in colour and produced for further education. One such film is 'The Magna Carta, 1415 Pageant' set in Bury St. Edmunds and beautifully produced with scenery of the ancient town of St. Edmundsbury. On enquiring about the connection between the Magna Carta and the town the answer was unknown

but thought it must be something to do with the King and St. Edmund.

There are many and varied types of educational films, such as travelogues, natural history, the wonderfully impressive film entitled 'Forbid Them Not' on the Wilfred Pickles School in Lincolnshire. What an inspiring and encouraging sight to see those spastic children at school work and playing and guiding, cycling and doing puzzles just as well as non-handicapped boys and girls.

The desire for these films must be quite demanding, as they are not only shown in The Bedford Hotel, and on assessment courses, but also in the cinemas themselves.

I do hope we will see them for a very long time to come, and that The Spastics Society and other societies will show and produce them for ever.

Yours sincerely, SUSAN BARNES (Miss), Jacques Hall Centre, Bradfield, Essex.

P.H.A.B. IN HULL

Dear Editor,

In the January issue of the SPASTICS NEWS, I couldn't help but read several times the article on the 'Smiling Faces Club' and the way it is run.

I was particularly interested in John Evans' remarks when he thought that

handicapped people, especially spastics, should mix with able-bodied people as much as possible. How I do so heartily agree with him.

In fact, so much so, that in Hull, with the help of the N.A.Y.C., we have now started a P.H.A.B. Youth Club which, as the initials show, is for Physically Handicapped and Able-bodied people between the ages of 15 to 30.

We have now got 36 mixed members and a jolly good time we have too, with the usual facilities for table tennis, snooker, etc.

Ten members are now entering for the 'Duke of Edinburgh' Award and two classes are in progress for it; Photography and Deaf and Dumb Language.

I might add, that the able-bodied members (not helpers) enjoy it as much as we handicapped and I do think that this sort of Club is a great challenge to them.

I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate Lance Green on his recent achievement in passing his 'A' level G.C.E.'s and being able to enter the University in Cardiff.

I do admire people like him under such a great handicap and I hope that this will be an encouragement to others in similar circumstances. He must be feeling very proud of himself.

Continued overleaf

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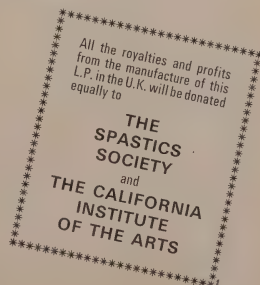
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(Courtesy: Chester Chronicle)

SPASTIC RALLY DRIVER: Brian Murphy, seen left in his wheelchair, won a prize at his first attempt at rally driving, in his powered invalid carriage, and without a navigator, at a Safety First Rally. His mother, Mrs. Ruby Murphy of Mold, Flintshire, is proud of him

I myself was very fortunate in 1966 to get my G.C.E. English 'O' level and I know just how he must feel as I felt, on top of the world.

I do enjoy reading SPASTICS NEWS, it seems to get better each issue.

Yours sincerely, RON WALKER, 69 East Park Avenue, Holderness Road, Hull.

JACQUES HALL OUTING

Dear Editor,

I thought that readers might be interested to know that a coach full of residents and staff from Jacques Hall joined up with a party of residents from Prested Hall for a lovely party, including a turkey dinner and all the trimmings, at a place called The Barn, which is a large thatched hotel on the road to St. Albans.

This was actually before Christmas but it is one we shall long remember. The band played some lovely dance tunes and we all had a dance. Each table was given tickets for the raffle which was held during the evening and Mr. Smith, from Prested Hall, gave us some cigars. The highlight of the evening was a cabaret, when two residents from Prested Hall sang some songs and two Jacques Hall-ites, Pamela Smith and Roy Wilkins, announced their engagement.

We arrived home at 2.45 a.m., happy but sleepy.

I would like to thank all who made this a happy and lovely time.

Yours sincerely, PETER J. JARVIS, Jacques Hall Centre, Bradfield, Essex.

PEN-FRIENDSHIP CLUB

Anyone wishing to join Pen-Friendship Club for all types of disabled people, please write, enclosing S.A.E. and giving details of age, interests, etc., to Mrs. D. B. MacDonald, Flat Four, 6 Bolton Road, Chiswick, London, W.4.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

is the Educational Journal of The Spastics Society and the Official Journal of the Association for Special Education. It is a leading professional journal for those concerned with special education. It reports new developments, teaching techniques and educational research.

Published in March, June, September and December, from 12 Park Crescent, London, W.1, at an annual subscription of £1.

Editor's Note:

'The Music of Walt Disney' can be purchased from your local record dealer at a cost of £1. It is hoped that all Groups will encourage their local record shops to make special display of this record. Display material is available from the Appeals Department, 12 Park Crescent, W.1.

ORDERS FOR KNITTING

Miss Joan Lewis, 62 Winchelsea Road, Hastings, would like orders for hand knitting—cardigans, jumpers, pullovers, baby clothes, etc.

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Double knitting—per oz.	1	0
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(Courtesy: Halifax Evening Courier)

HEATH BANK AGAIN: Three young men, now resident, who mean to keep up with their Scouting are (L. to R.) Bill Wallwork (1st Cheadle), Arnold Batty (21st Huddersfield), and Mick Blandford (2nd Exhall, Coventry). Another, George Adams, who is a Queen's Scout and holds the Cornwall Badge for endurance, was unable to be present

LOCAL GROUP PROVISION

NORTH REGION

Berwick-upon-Tweed and District Spastics Society
Cumberland, Westmorland and Furness Spastics Society **WORTH**
Darlington and District Spastics Society **H**
Durham and District Spastics Society
South Shields and District Spastics Society **CW**
Sunderland and District Spastics Society **CW**
Tees-side Spastics Society **TE**

Regional Officer:
Miss E. O'Kelly, M.B.E., 34/35 Saddler Street, Durham. Tel.: 2654

YORKSHIRE REGION

Barnsley and District Association
Bradford and District Branch **R**
Castleford and District Spastics Committee
Dewsbury and District Spastics Society
Goole and District Spastics Society **W**
Halifax and District Spastics Society **O**
Huddersfield and District Spastics Society **O**
The Friends of the Spastics Society in Hull and District **H**
Leeds and District Spastics Society **W**
Pontefract and District Spastics Association
Rawmarsh and Parkgate Spastics Society
Sheffield and District Spastics Society **TOC**
York and District Spastics Group **TC**

Regional Officer:
Mr. R. J. F. Whyte, Royal Chambers, Station Parade, Harrogate. Tel.: 69655.

MANCHESTER REGION

Barrow-in-Furness and District Spastic and Handicapped Children's Society **C**
Blackburn and District Spastics Group **TC**
Blackpool and Fylde Spastics Society
Bolton and District Spastics Society **TE**
Burnley Area and Rossendale Spastics Group **T**
Lancaster, Morecambe and District Spastics Society
Manchester and District Spastics Society

Oldham and District Spastics Society **TCER**
Preston and District Spastics Group **OCT**
Sale, Altrincham and District Spastics Society **OCT**
Stockport, East Cheshire and High Peak Spastics Society **RTEC**
Urmston and District Group **TEOC**
Wigan and District Spastics Society **TC**

Regional Officer:
Mr. G. R. Christie, Room 481, 4th Floor St. James's Buildings, 89 Oxford Street, Manchester 1. Tel.: Central 2088.

Regional Social Worker:
Mrs. M. Moncaster, same address

MERSEYSIDE and NORTH WALES REGION

Birkenhead Spastic Children's Society **TEOC**
Caernarvonshire Spastics and Handicapped Peoples' Society
Crosby, Bootle, Litherland and District Spastics Society **C**
Warrington and District Group for the Welfare of Spastics **O**
Chester and District Spastics Association **TCE**
Colwyn Bay and District Spastics Society

Crewe and District Spastics Society
Flint and District Spastics Society
Montgomeryshire Spastics Society
Southport, Formby and District Spastics Society
Widnes Spastic Fellowship Group

Regional Officer:
Mr. F. Young, 6 King's Buildings, Chester. Tel.: Chester 27127.

Regional Social Worker:
Miss E. Williams, same address

EAST MIDLAND REGION

Boston District Branch
Chesterfield and District Spastics Society **TOC**
Derby and District Spastics Society **T**
Grantham and District Friends of Spastics Group **R**
Grimsby, Cleethorpes and District Friends of Spastics Society **TR**
Leicester and District Spastics Society **TC**
Lincoln and District Spastics Society **R**
Loughborough and District Spastics Society
Mansfield and District Friends of Spastics Group **O**
Newark Area Spastics Society
Northampton and County Spastics Society **TE**
Nottingham and District Friends of Spastics Group **TEC**
Scunthorpe and District Spastics Society **R**
Stamford and District Spastics Society **R**

Regional Officer:
Mr. T. H. O'Neill, Holland House, 43 Loughborough Road, Westbridgford, Nottingham, Tel.: 84357

Regional Social Worker:
Mrs. M. Lane, same address

WEST MIDLAND REGION

Coventry and District Spastics Society **WOR**
Dudley and District Spastic Group **TOC**
Herefordshire Spastics Society
Kidderminster and District Spastics Association
Midland Spastic Association **TEOWC**
North Staffordshire Spastic Association **TO**
Shropshire Spastics Society **H**
Stafford and District Spastic Association **T**
West Bromwich and District Spastics Society
Wolverhampton and District Spastics Society

Regional Officer:
Mr. I. C. R. Archibald, Vehicle and General House, Hurst St., Birmingham 5. Tel.: 643-3367

Regional Social Worker:
Mr. M. Townsend, same address (apart from Birmingham and Worcestershire areas)

Senior Welfare Officer, M.S.A. (Birmingham and Worcestershire areas):
Mrs. N. M. Barrett, 15 Victoria Road, Harborne, Birmingham 17. Tel.: Harborne 3182 and 2458

SOUTH WALES REGION (including Monmouthshire)

Cardiff and District Spastics Association **C**
Kenfig Hill and District Spastics Society **CTO**
Merthyr Tydfil and District Spastics Society
Monmouthshire Spastics Society

TO Pembrokeshire Spastics Society
Pontypridd and District Spastics Society
Swansea and District Spastics Assoc. **TECW**

Regional Officer:
Mr. B. Kingsley-Davies, 2 Saunders Road, Cardiff. Tel.: 29289

Regional Social Worker:
Mrs. P. A. Smith, same address

WEST REGION

Bath and District Spastics Society
Bridgwater and District Friends of Spastics Association **T**
Bristol Spastics Association **OW**
Cornish Spastics Society
Exeter and Torbay Spastics Society **T**
Plymouth Spastic (CP) Association **COETW**
Weston and District Society for the Spastic and Mentally Handicapped **TR**
Yeovil and District Spastics Welfare Society

Regional Officer:
Mr. P. J. H. Pope, St. John House, Staple-grove Road, Taunton, Somerset. Tel.: 81678

Regional Social Worker:
Miss H. M. Day, c/o Bristol Work Centre, Dovecourt Road, Bristol 7. Tel.: 693695
Mrs. S. N. Fox (part-time), St. John House, Staple-grove Road, Taunton, Somerset. Tel.: 81678

EAST ANGLIA REGION

Braintree and North-West Essex Spastics Society
Cambridge and District Spastics Society
Chelmsford and District Spastics Society
Clacton and District Spastics Society
Colchester and District Group
Ipswich and East Suffolk Spastics Society **TW**
King's Lynn and West Norfolk Spastics Society
Lowestoft and N.E. Suffolk Spastics Society
Norfolk and Norwich Spastics Association **W**
Peterborough and District Spastics Group **O**
Southend-on-Sea and District Spastics Society **OC**
Thurrock and District Spastics Society

Regional Officer:
Mr. H. G. Knight, 51 Newnham Road, Cambridge. Tel.: 61747

Regional Social Worker:
Mrs. G. J. Thorn, 53A Head Street, Colchester. Tel.: 72374

WESSEX REGION

Andover and District Spastics Society
Basingstoke and District Spastics Society
Bournemouth, Poole and District Spastics Society **CTE**
Cheltenham and District Spastics Association **ETC**
Gloucester and District Spastics Association
Isle of Wight Spastics Society **TE**
Portsmouth and District Spastics Society **W**
Salisbury and District Spastics Association
Southampton and District Spastics Association **TOWCE**
Swindon and District Spastics Society **H**
Winchester and District Spastics Society

Regional Officer:
Miss C. Mould, 7 St. John Street, Salisbury.
Regional Social Worker:
Mr. R. Jenkinson, same address

NORTHERN HOME COUNTIES REGION

Bedford and District Branch **TOWEC**
 Bishop's Stortford and District Group,
 Herts Spastics Society
 East Herts Group, Herts Spastics Society
 Friends of Ponds Home
 Hatfield and District Spastics Society
 Hemel Hempstead and District Group, Herts
 Spastics Society
 Hitchin, Letchworth and Stevenage Spastics
 Society
 Luton, Dunstable and District Spastics
 Group **TEC**
 Maidenhead Friends of Spastics Group **TOC**
 Oxfordshire Spastics Welfare Society
 Reading and Berkshire Spastics Welfare
 Society **T**
 Slough and District Spastics Welfare Society
 St. Albans and District Group, Herts
 Spastics Society **T**
 Watford and District Group, Herts Spastics
 Society **TEOC**
 Welwyn Garden City and District Group,
 Herts Spastics Society **CT**
 Wycombe and District Spastics Society

Regional Officer:

Mr. R. C. Lemarie, 524 St. Alban's Road,
 North Watford. Tel.: 41565

Regional Social Workers:

Miss U. M. Ballance, same address.
 Tel.: 41059
 Miss C. A. Cuming (part-time), Area Social
 Work Office, Castle Priory, Thames St.,
 Wallingford, Berks. Tel.: Wallingford 2551

SOUTH-EAST REGION

Brighton, Hove and District Spastics Soc. **OC**
 Canterbury and Kent Coast Spastics Group **W**
 Central Surrey Group **C**
 East Sussex Group **H**
 Folkestone Group
 Horsham, Crawley and District Spastic
 Society

Maidstone Area Spastic Group **OT**
 Medway Towns Branch **CT**
 North Hants and West Surrey Group **TECO**
 North-West Surrey Group **TEOC**
 South-East Surrey Group **TOC**
 South-West Surrey Group **TEOC**
 Thanet Group **C**
 Tunbridge Wells, Tonbridge and Area Group **W**
 West Sussex Spastics Group
 Worthing, Littlehampton & District Spastics
 Society

Regional Officer:

Mr. H. J. I. Cunningham, 29b Linkfield
 Lane, Redhill, Surrey. Tel.: Redhill 63944
 and 62250

Regional Social Workers:

Mrs. Vera Chinchin, same address
 Miss J. M. Goldie (part-time), same address

LONDON REGION

Regional Officer:

(North of the Thames)
 Mr. N. J. Goldfrap, 28 Fitzroy Sq., London,
 W.1. Tel.: Euston 2436

Central Middlesex Spastics Welfare Society **W**
 East London Spastics Society **H**
 Epping Forest and District Branch **TO**
 Ilford, Romford and District Spastics
 Association **O**
 North London Area Association of Parents
 and Friends of Spastics **T**
 North-West London Spastics Society **W**
 South-West Middlesex Group
 Walthamstow and District Spastics Society
 Friends of the Centre for Spastic Children

Regional Officer:

(South of the Thames)
 Mr. Alan Henderson, 28 Fitzroy Sq., Lon-
 don, W.1. Tel.: Euston 2436).
 Croydon and District Spastics Society **TEWC**
 North Surrey Group **W**

North-West Kent Spastics Group **WO**
 South-East London Group
 South London Group
 South-West London and District Group
 West Kent Spastics Society **W**

Jersey Spastics Society
 Northern Ireland Council for Orthopaedic
 Development (Inc.)

Chief Regional Officer:

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Schools and Centres Secretary:

Mrs. C. A. Clifton

Social Work and Employment Secretary:

Miss M. R. Morgan, M.B.E.

Acting Projects Secretary:

Mr. M. R. H. Stopford
 All at 12 Park Crescent, London, W.1.

Senior Regional Officer (North):

Group-Capt. W. A. L. Davis, C.B.E., D.F.C.,
 A.F.C., c/o Yorkshire Office

Senior Regional Officer (West):

Mr. D. S. Hutcheson, 43 Bridge St., Taun-
 ton, Somerset. Tel.: Taunton 82489

Senior Regional Officer (East):

Brig. C. V. Halden, M.B.E., T.D., M.A.,
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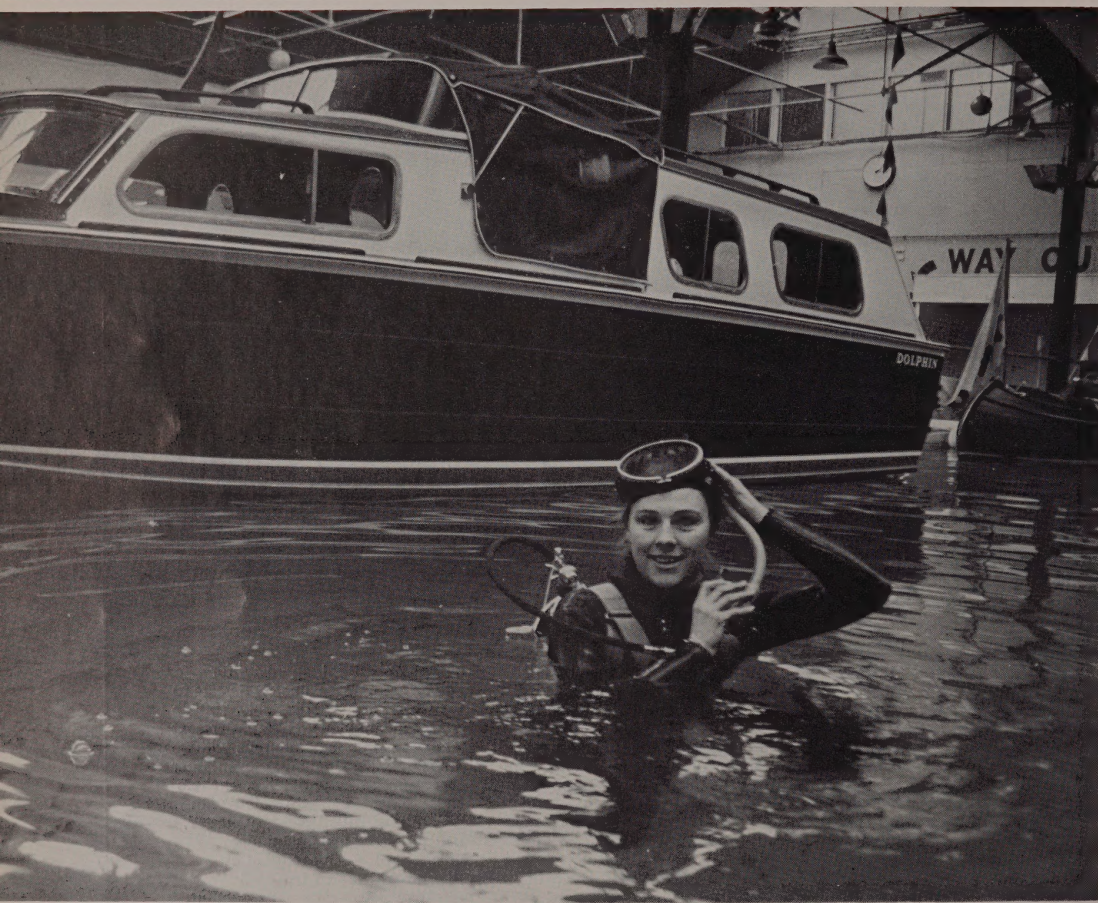
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IN THE SWIM FOR CHARITY



(Photo by courtesy of Birmingham Evening Mail)

Mrs. Bunny Colclough, of the Tamworth Sub-Aqua Club, seen here diving for coins thrown into the pool at the *Birmingham Post and Mail Boat and Holiday Show*. The Midland Spastic Association, who collected the proceeds in previous years, this year are sharing with the Royal National Lifeboat Institution.